STAR OF MYSORE

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43rd
ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL ISSUE

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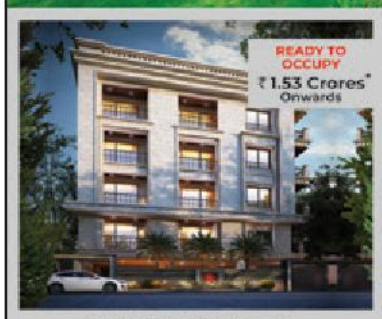

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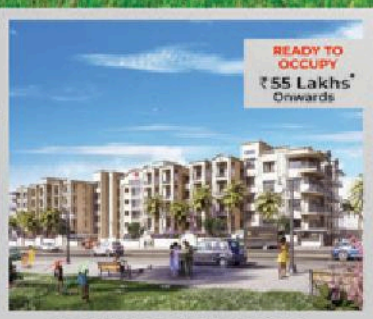

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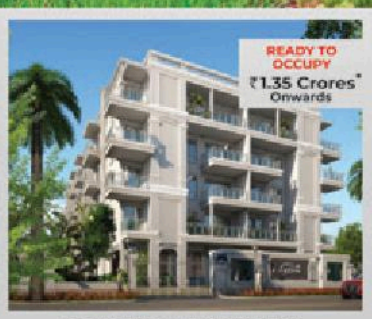

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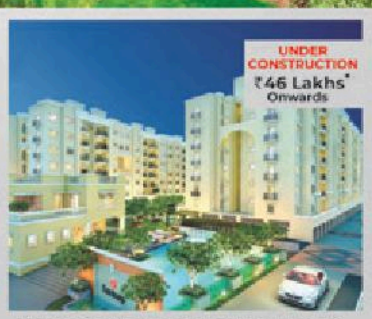

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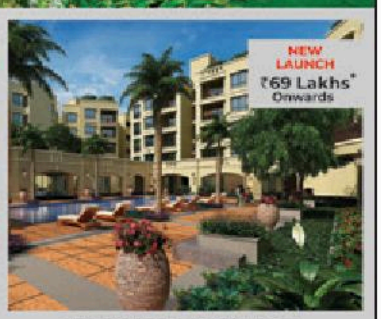

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The STAR Girl

S. Sukruthi, a second standard student of The Orchids School in Ramakrishnanagar, dressed up as *'Star of Mysore'* girl, bagged first prize in the fancy dress competition held at the school recently.

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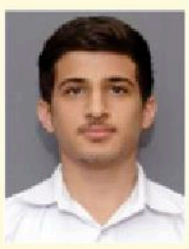

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Thank you Dinesh Sir and IMSC , you will remain an inspiration for me all my life

-**Akshy Rao**, doing II Year MBBS in Mysore Medical College.

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My experience in IMSc was a fantaboulous experience. I was always supported by the teaching faculty here who used to make sure that students would get the best facilities and training possible. The most memorable part of IMSc is the series of tests and also the teachers staying back upto late night so that they could clarify our doubts and conduct more mock tests, which helped me go a long way ahead. The teaching I got from them was also of a very good standard helping me understand the basics of the subject to the best possible level since it was those on which every thing of the subject was built upon. Helping me to understand every concept clearly. All in all IMSc was one of the best things that happened to me during my 11th and 12th classes.

- **Rohit Raj** , doing I Year BS Programme in Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore .

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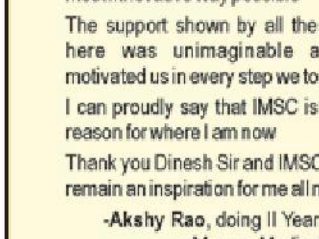

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"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."
Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.
Editor-in-Chief: K.B. Ganapathy B.A.; B.L.
Mysuru, Sunday 16th February 2020

Thank You

It was this day, nay this very evening, 42 years ago that STAR OF MYSORE was born in this city as an Evening English Newspaper. Happily it continues to be your favourite eveninger.

From this evening, we will be entering 43rd year of our publication. And as we do so, we gratefully remember all those who made it possible to reach this milestone and salute them with gratitude and humility.

Bringing out a special issue on our anniversary has been a tradition with us ever since the beginning of this newspaper. We are indeed beholden to our readers and advertisers for making this possible.

We have been following all along an independent editorial policy without aligning ourselves with any political party, community, group, ideology or vested interest and this policy will continue. Our first editorial titled *"A Star Is Born"* which is printed alongside, declares this policy more eloquently.

As a newspaper, we strongly believe our survival depends solely on our usefulness to the society and on the service we render to our readers and advertisers. Which is why we take up just causes and important issues in a crusading spirit to protect readers' interest while widening our readership base. And advertisers get VALUE for their money. After all, it is the credibility of STAR OF MYSORE as a brand and its pulling-power that should matter to our advertisers rather than the cost of advertising.

On this occasion, we also remember the truth that change is a constant in any organisation that wishes to grow — not just survive. And we are bracing ourselves for an array of changes from pre-press to printing technology. All this to ensure continuation of your addiction to STAR OF MYSORE — for all the news of *Namma Cheluva Mysuru*. We have experienced contributors who provide expert views on issues current and of common interest. This, in addition to our weekly supplement on subjects of special interest.

Welcome. Sit back, relax, make yourself a nice cuppa and experience your reading pleasure every evening.

And finally a big "Thank You" — to our subscribers, advertisers, contributors, our staff, our agents and paper delivery boys who together have teamed up to make STAR OF MYSORE a success story among evening newspapers in India. A very good evening to You.

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

"I will now briefly outline our objectives for next year — We gotta make more money."

NEWS SPARKLERS

Over 2,000 women wanna date him!

London: A single man has managed to bag himself a Valentine's date — after spending more than £400 to advertise himself on a billboard.

Mark Rofe took the drastic measure after becoming fed up with online dating, and seeing all his close friends get married.

The 30-year-old bought the ad space in Manchester — and has since had more than 2,000 applications — including one (he claims) from Maya Jama.

Announcing the news on Twitter, he said: "It feels odd sharing my love life, but since people keep asking. I do have my first date arranged for Valentine's Day.

"I thought the best approach would be to break it down and go through the applications bit by bit, and I've started with the first 100 so far."

Rofe closed the applications after 2,363 people signed up.

In response he posted on his website: "I've had over 2,000 people apply to go on date with me, from all over the world. I honestly never expected such an incredible response - thank you!

"This was never about how many people I could get to apply to date me, so I've decided to close applications because I am confident that the person for me is among those that have already applied (and I WILL find you)."

So if things do not work out tonight - he still has a few more potential Mrs Rofes.

A Star Is Born

In an age where birth of a nation is a minor event, birth of a child is a curse, the birth of a newspaper is bound to be a non-event. More so when its founders and the Editor are from among the common men with no past of any distinction. Which is why there was no ceremonial inauguration of the publication of *Star of Mysore* nor any promotional campaign.

It is natural, our readers may want to know what manner of a newspaper this *Star of Mysore* will be. A run-of-the-mill type that flutters and falls gently, like an unwanted old leaf, through the window into your drawing room every evening or the one that will interest you to welcome home and read with pleasure.

Yes, the *Star of Mysore* is conceived and produced to belong to the latter category.

This is a local paper and as such we are more interested in what is happening in our immediate surroundings rather than in the distant Delhi everyday.

Our investigative reporter will sneak into the Municipal Council Hall, go nosing around University campus, walk footloose along the Police beat, amble into the hospitals and slink under the seat of power to publish in cold print all that you always wanted to know but could not. Now a STAR is born to fulfil that need.

We, the publishers, reporters and the Editor are aware of our responsibility to our readers. And it is our hope that we will be able to find a responsive readership in you. We are also aware that in the final analysis, it is your patronage and support (both from the readers and the advertisers) that will sustain us in our noble goals and work-a-day life.

The best cannot come in the beginning. We have many constraints. We are improving now and will improve as days pass by. You will soon find better headline types, brighter layout and excellent printing. We are trying. The Star must shine.

[16.2.1978]

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

A car was involved in an accident in a street. As expected, a large crowd gathered. A newspaper reporter, anxious to get his story, could not get near the car. Being a clever sort, he started shouting loudly, *"Let me through! Let me through! I am the son of the victim."* ***The crowd made way for him. Lying in front of the car was a donkey!!***

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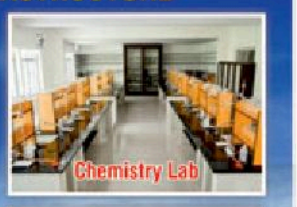

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"we never dream of success, we work for it"

Abracadabra... Abracadabra...

By K.B. Ganapathy

BJP's new generation leader

B.L. Santhosh, Karnataka's next BJP Chief Minister?

Will Santhosh become Haryana's Khattar in Karnataka?

On Friday, 24th January, 2020, BJP's newly-minted **National Organising General Secretary B.L. Santhosh,** son of Karnataka soil *(Mannina Maga),* came to Mysuru to address a public meeting on Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). This law was passed by both the Houses of Parliament with comfortable majority. But the Left political parties and other so-called liberal Opposition parties, including Muslim-specific parties, led by Congress, found fault with the Act on the ground only they can divine. They launched protests soon after the Bill was passed which turned violent, though later the protests were vocal and peaceful. Unfortunately, the protest seems endemic.

The meeting was organised mainly to educate gullible public who were misinformed and misled by the Opposition on CAA.

Santhosh is no stranger to Mysuru city. In fact, after completing his BE in Chemical Engineering from Davanagere, Karnataka, the Udupi-born Santhosh chose to plunge into the service of the country by becoming a full-time worker of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). **I learn that as RSS Pracharak, his first posting was to Rajendranagar, then a new developing layout, North of Mysuru city.** He served here for one-and-a-half months. That was in 1992. Later, his service was extended to Mysuru city where he served as RSS Pracharak for three years before going to Shivamogga. Thereafter, he never looked back.

According to his RSS friends in Mysuru, in 1994, he was the election agent of H.S. Shankaralinge Gowda of BJP who contested and won from Chamaraja Constituency. Santhosh is said to be the blue-eyed boy of former BJP National President and now the Home Minister Amit Shah, which enabled him to evolve himself as one of BJP's top strategists.

Bommarabettu Laxmijanardhana Santhosh, fondly called Santhoshji.

Santhosh, a bachelor, totally committed to the service of the country through RSS and now BJP, is considered an expert in using social media to communicate the Party's policy on various National issues. Now, for example, the CAA. **No wonder, he is considered a new generation leader.**

It may be recalled that when BJP's first Government in South India was formed in 2008 in Karnataka, with B.S. Yediyurappa as Chief Minister, the Party gave credit for its success not only to Yediyurappa but also to Santhosh who had worked behind the scene for Party's victory as BJP's General Secretary (Organisation) in the Karnataka Unit.

Appreciating his good work, the then BJP National President Amit Shah appointed him as National Joint-General Secretary, in-charge of Southern States, in 2014. Apart from his academic qualification and extraordinary organising capacity, his strength as a leader comes from his ability to speak fluently in five languages — English, Hindi, Kannada, Tamil and Tulu. This, naturally enabled him to establish rapport with people speaking these languages, an added advantage to interact with people in any part of India.

Because of his dynamic leadership, an image of being a hardliner Pracharak is created among his RSS and BJP colleagues. Though he appears to keep a low-profile generally, when it comes to facing challenges, he rises to the occasion like a giant. **A very fluent and powerful public speaker, he will hold his audience spellbound for any length of time.**

Another, hitherto little-known, leadership quality of Santhosh is his eye for identifying talented, hard-working persons among the members of BJP and RSS and giving them responsibility. It is almost like a film director who identifies a talented actor and makes him a Star and a Superstar. **No wonder, a 28-year-old Tejasvi Surya or a young journalist like Pratap Simha could become MPs — all because Santhosh could find leadership potential in these two youngsters and provide them with an opportunity much against the wish of State BJP honchos. No wonder, if Amit Shah is called the Chanakya of India's BJP politics, Santhosh is called the Chanakya of Karnataka politics.**

When Yediyurappa became the first BJP Chief Minister in 2008, according to reports in a section of the Press, Santhosh turned out to be the thorn in Yediyurappa's flesh giving pinpricks. The relationship between the two had soured so much that Yediyurappa had to resign in 2011 over a land scam. It is said that Santhosh was expecting to become the CM (as late Ananth Kumar was ignored), probably like the way Modi became CM of Gujarat, fuelling crisis in the Party. However, Yediyurappa had his own political clout to sabotage such aspirations of Santhosh. It was a turbulent period for State BJP. Yediyurappa soon split from the Party to form his own outfit called Karnataka Janata Paksha (KJP). It could get only six seats in 2013 Assembly election, though sabotaged the chances of BJP winning. Later in 2014, the KJP merged into BJP. What was BJP's loss in 2013 was a gain for Congress and its leader Siddharamaiah. Since then, BJP and Yediyurappa have seen many ups and downs in the boiling political pot of Karnataka and presently, Yediyurappa is back in the saddle as CM by sheer serendipity. Luck.

The Karnataka politicians are now keenly looking for the next Assembly election. If everything goes well, it should happen in 2023. **Now let me hazard a prognosis for Santhosh.**

Will there be another opportunity for Santhosh (called in admiration and reverence as Santhoshji) to be the Chief Minister of Karnataka in 2023 or whenever the next Assembly election happens if BJP gets people's mandate to form the Government?

Political pundits of Karnataka opine such a possibility is clearly perceptible looking at the present political scenario of the BJP in Karnataka. In the first place, there is a self-imposed age limit to hold an office for BJP leaders set at 75 years. Going by this age bar, Yediyurappa, who is already 76, is clearly out of the race. Presently, he is in office because of expediency in the absence of others who can step into his shoes. Another factor that will favour Santhosh is that he is a Kannadiga and the third one again in his favour is he comes from RSS School.

In the recent expansion of BJP Ministry to accommodate the new-comers, there was much debate, unconscionable demands for portfolios and bitter acrimony. Therefore, it is clear that there will surely be many contenders for the CM's Office from the old-guards of BJP in the absence of Yediyurappa. But then, we should also remember among the old-guards there is hardly any one who can match Santhosh to adorn the CM's office. **Naturally, he may emerge as a compromise candidate defying the caste barriers !**

It is here that we can draw a parallel to what happened in Haryana where BJP won for the first time in 2014. By defying, not only the claims of the senior BJP MLAs but also the caste consideration, Manohar Lal Khattar who was a former RSS Pracharak and worked successfully for the victory of BJP, was the choice of both RSS and BJP for the Office of the Chief Minister. Even in the Assembly election held in 2019, Khattar was made the CM again after making an alliance with Dushyant Chautala's Jannayak Janata Party (JJP). Therefore, no one need be surprised if a similar situation replicates itself in Karnataka in the future.

However, this prognosis is steeped in BJP High Command's unpredictable ways. Remember what happened in Maharashtra? I say unto our politicians from experience that while **aspiring power** is just and must, **greed for power** is unjust and even suicidal.

And should the fortune smile on Santhosh as predicted above, he will surely make a very good Chief Minister for the reason he is known to be a no-nonsense man and a go-getter. He believes in the idea that a **political office** is NOT for enjoying the care and attention by running administration of the State through the steel frame of bureaucracy, but it is to RESOLVE all kinds of problems hampering the economic development of the State and also in maintaining the law and order. He wants to solve problems kept pending like a festering wound by the earlier Governments.

Now, let us keep our fingers crossed about BJP winning the next Assembly election and B.L. Santhosh becoming the Chief Minister. After all, "Politics is a game of possibilities!"

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Power supply, billing to be digitised in city

- CESC prepares Rs. 354 crore proposal under National Smart Grid Mission
- At present, Vontikoppal and Hootagalli Sub-Divisions have this facility

By S.T. Ravikumar

Mysuru, Feb. 16- The Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation (CESC) has prepared a Rs. 354 crore proposal to extend the benefits of Smart Grid (smart metering solutions) to the entire city. The proposal will soon be submitted to Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) for approval.

The proposal has been worked out under the National Smart Grids Mission (NSGM), Union Ministry of Power. CESC's entry to National Smart Grid Initiative was in August 2013, when the Union Ministry of Power chose Mysuru among 14 cities in India for Smart Grid Pilot Projects (SGPP). In fact, SGPP Mysuru was the first Detailed Project Report (DPR) to be approved, tendered, implemented and commissioned.

Public Private Partnership

The pilot project has been implemented under Public Private Partnership model with 50 percent funding from the Centre, 24 percent from CESC and 26 percent from Enzen Global Solutions Private Limited, the implementing partner.

A sum of Rs. 32.56 crore has been spent on the pilot project where smart metres were installed covering 24,532 consumers. The project was implemented in 14 feeders covering Vontikoppal and Hootagalli Sub-Divisions comprising areas like V.V. Mohalla, Vontikoppal, Jayalakshmipuram, Gokulam, Paduvarahalli, CFTRI, Metagalli, Hebbal, Brindavan Extension and Hootagalli.

The smart remote-sensing electricity meter.

Online Smart Grid Technology

The smart metres are managed by Online Smart Grid Technology, with online meter reading, disconnection and reconnection of meters, regulation of electricity load and several other features monitored and handled online. The details on smart consumers can be accessed from the CESC's Smart Grid Control Centre and portal.

The remote metering technology can be accessed from mobile phones by the consumers and from the control room by the CESC. There is no need for the meter reader to visit the house where the smart meter has been fixed to take the reading. The data can be accessed online as the smart meter is equipped with radio frequency chip. Even disconnection can be done sitting from the control room for non-payment of bills.

Automatically reads power consumption

Even if a consumer consumes excess power than prescribed by CESC or applied for by the consumer, the metre automatically switches on to the higher power billing and this message will be received by the consumer too. The smart metre can integrate renewable energy and bill the consumer or provide subsidies accordingly. Other features include consumer-CESC employee portal, power outage monitoring, peak load management and load curtailment. Different types of tariffs can be controlled from Smart Grid control room. In order to execute this project, a smart energy meter is installed at houses or properties.

Good and uninterrupted power supply

Now that the Smart Grid project is likely to be extended to entire Mysuru city, consumers can expect good quality and uninterrupted power supply. The project eliminates manual reading of energy meter by meter reader and disconnection or re-connection by linemen.

In a Smart Grid area, a complete load-shedding of the feeder line is eliminated through load curtailment of individual consumer installations instead of a complete blackout. Smart Grid also enables real-time display of energy use so that consumer gains control over their energy consumption by using consumer portal. It helps CESC in early detection of faults and rectification in minimum time.

Anniversary Special issue

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Mysuru: A Look at its Past...

By Gouri Satya, Sr.Journalist

How Mummadi and his Queens built Mysore

As a few other subjects drew my attention, I could not continue to write about the past history of Mysore for the last few weeks. My earlier articles on the old city of Mysore published in these columns, in particular on Agraharas and Keris, received overwhelming response.

Readers posted hundreds of comments on *Star of Mysore* website and on *Facebook* and also shared the links among friends who also posted comments appreciating those articles with a few suggesting some new topics. This enthusiastic response, needless to say, shows that people, either here or abroad, are eager to know about the erstwhile royal city, its past history and glory.

Reverting to the same subject, today I intend to give a brief sketch about the early historical growth of Mysore, how a neglected place began to gain importance over decades, thanks to the contribution by Mummadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar and his queens. It is interesting to note the historical development of Mysore, a process which began with notable contributions by Maharaja Mummadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar and his queens, followed by his successors, including Vani Vilasa Sannidhana. Donning the role of regent, she too played a significant role in the development of Mysore, which has not received due recognition. In this write-up, I briefly highlight the contribution of Mummadi and his queens.

Agrahara Circle, a gateway for Agraharas and a few Keris. [Pic. by M.N. Lakshminarayana Yadav]

Krishnaraja Wadiyar III

Vanivilasa Sannidhana

Fading town springs up

Noticeable improvement in the erstwhile capital is seen after shifting of the headquarters of the Maharaja from Srirangapatna at the end of the 18th century. The Palace, the beauty of which we find elaborated in old Kannada classics, had come to ruins and its stones shifted to build a new city and a small fort on the outskirts of Mysore — Nazarbad.

Tipu Sultan had constructed a small Palace and some houses in Nazarbad and also some houses on the Northern part of Mysore, near Subedar Veeranna Thota, close to a low-lying area where water was flowing, for rehabilitating those residents who were evacuated from within the Palace Fort. This could be the present Halladakeri, beyond which the entire area lying outside the Palace Fort and the town was more like a small forest.

As a result, the small town of Mysore had suffered in its status and population. One can image the size of the town when in 1871 the population was only around 45,000. After efforts to build a new town, away from the Fort, **Mysore was at the threshold of becoming a neglected and forgotten town, with Nazarbad set to gain prominence.** But destiny did not allow this to happen and today we see a vastly expanded city on all its four sides with manifold increase in population.

Headquarters shift: Srirangapatna to Mysore

With the shifting of the headquarters from Srirangapatna to Mysore, building a suitable residence for the royal family so that it also suits the Dasara celebration, which had also suffered for about three or four decades at Srirangapatna prior to 1800s, was of utmost importance. There was **no proper place even for the coronation of the child-king, Mummadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar** (1799-1868). For lack of a proper royal structure, the coronation of the five-year child-king was conducted at the Lakshmiramanaswamy Temple which had remained almost intact within the small fort.

Following the construction of a new Palace between 1800 and 1804, the town began to gain importance and witness planned expansion. New Keris and Agraharas were built and new Mohallas were created adding to the existing five Mohallas — Fort Mohalla, Lashkar Mohalla, Mandi Mohalla, Devaraja Mohalla and Krishnaraja Mohalla. All these Mohallas were outside the Palace Fort.

The Keris that existed then included Dalvoy Keri, Thammadageri, the Keri in front of the Kandachara Chavadi or Department, Chikkaharuva Keri, Doddaharuva Keri, Kadle Keri, Hoovadigara Keri, the Keri abetting Trinayanaswamy Temple, the Keri behind Horse Stables, Gollageri, Agasakeri, Nayinda Keri, Kumborageri, Bhagiya Keri, the Keri inside the Sringara Thota or garden, and Sulekeri.

[Continued on Page - 46]

Mentions of Agraharas in Kannada Classics

A Kannada classic of the later period (1916), "Mahishura Maharaja Charitram", authored by Kavitilaka Sosale Ayya Sastry, the court poet of Krishnaraja Wadiyar IV, records that Krishnaraja Wadiyar III got constructed some Agraharas in memory of his mothers and his queens.

Krishnaraja Wadiyar's father, Chamaraja Wadiyar IX (1776-1796) had seven wives. They were Kempananjammanni, Kempadevajammanni, Cheluvajammanni, Devirammanni, Nanjammanni, Lakshammanni and Devajammanni. **Kempananjamba Agrahara, Cheluvamba Agrahara, Devirammanni Agrahara, and Devamba Agrahara are still surviving bearing the names of the three queens of Chamaraja Wadiyar.** Besides these Agraharas, we have Seetha Vilasa Agrahara and Kathvadipura Agrahara of the Maharaja's period. Kashipathi Agrahara, Ramanuja Agrahara and Srinivasan Agrahara were later additions.

Further, "Rajavamsha Rathnaprabha", a Kannada classic authored by Thammaiah Sastry, also mentions the Agraharas that were built by Krishnaraja Wadiyar III, both in the names of his mothers and wives. Krishnaraja Wadiyar had as many as 21 wives.

VOICE OF THE READER

Nostalgic memories of

Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa's talk on Democracy 50 years ago !

Sir,

I regularly read KBG's *Abracadabra* column with interest. I fully concur with his views about Jairam Ramesh's comment on Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa *(SOM* dated Feb.10). I don't know whether Jairam Ramesh has ever met the Field Marshal and noticed his highly democratic and humanistic qualities.

I recall an instance that happened exactly 50 years ago where I had an occasion to spend over an hour listening to Field Marshal Cariappa. It was in 1970 and I was in Bangalore at that time teaching in APS College, fresh from completing my Post-Graduate studies in Commerce, at Manasagangothri and was into the teaching line for about 6 months.

I was selected for a 10-day training programme held by the Leslie Sawhny Programme of Training for Democracy which was held at Bangalore. We were about 15 or so members in the programme, including K. Jairaj (retired Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Karnataka), a good friend of mine and a student of B.A (Hons.) in Central College at that time. That day we had M.R. Masani and Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa to speak to us, who both spent nearly half-a-day with us speaking on various aspects of Democracy, Discipline and the need for our commitment to nation-building.

After his talk, Cariappa had a free-wheeling chat with us and shook hands with each of us. We had such a good time talking to him so freely on issues of nation-building.

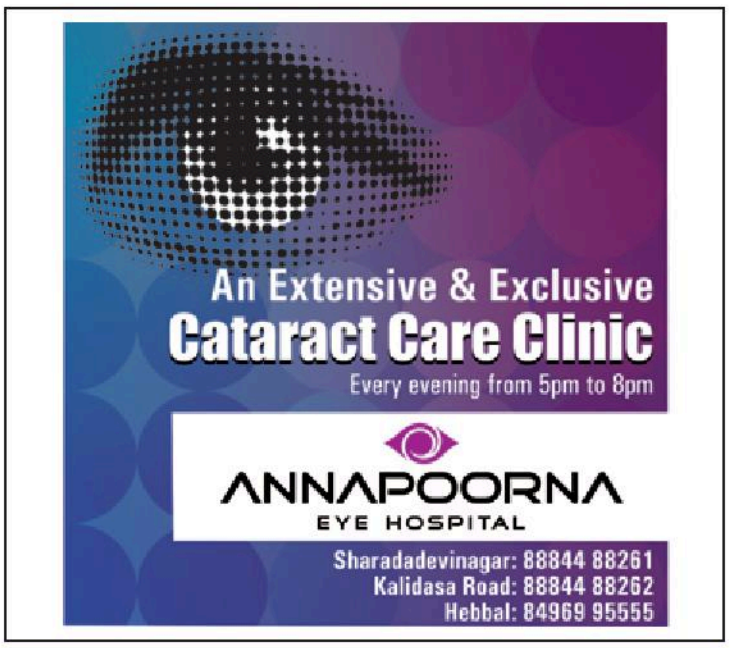
Thank you very much KBG, your piece in the *Abracadabra* column helped me to recall those wonderful moments that happened half-a-century ago.

—V. Krishna Moorthy
Srirampura
11.2.2020

IDEATHON contest on Social Innovation

Mysuru, Feb. 16 (KS)- Young Indians (Yi), a youth wing of CII Mysuru, has organised a unique competition 'IDEATHON' on Feb. 19 at SJCE in city from 10 am to 1 pm. The contest is open to all Universities, Professors and teachers from Mysuru, who have problem-solving ideas in Social Innovation Space. The three-hour event has been designed towards creating small scale solutions through IT platforms, social science application and creating ideas that benefit society.

Teachers or College faculty should form a team of three members and one member should take the lead. The idea must provide a solution for the real social problem Mysuru city is facing. Solutions can be built at the venue and it can contain technologies to be used, block diagrams, pilot models and technical diagrams if needed. Participants should get all necessary materials to demonstrate their idea to the judges. Last date for registration in Feb. 17. For details, contact Mob: 70199-67945 or e-mail: *m.guruprasad@cii.in*



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Bun Uncle on night rounds

By Nandini Srinivasan

If you feel like treating a big group of friends to a hot cuppa and some soft buns at an eerie hour like 2 am, you still can. All you need to do is know the selling places of **S.A. Manjunath** who goes around the city from 12 in the midnight to 7 in the morning selling hot cups of tea, coffee and buns.

Manjunath, who was earlier writing accounts for a shop on D. Devaraj Urs Road, decided to do something to supplement his income to educate his son. Since he worked in the shop till late evening, he started selling tea and coffee during nights and began his night cycle business in the early 80s. After the shop closed down, he continued with his night shift as he felt the need was more during these hours.

Manjunath back then, carried his flasks on a cycle and stood near a couple of important points like Railway Station and Mysore Medical College. Today, his shift begins at the stroke of 12 midnight. His first stop is near Bisilu Maramma Temple in Gangothri Layout from where he goes to Maruthi Temple in the same vicinity. Next stop is JSS Hostel, a little further, then near Kuvempu statue opposite Manasagangothri.

Moving to Javaregowda Park on Kamakshi Hospital Road or sometimes near Saraswathipuram Police Station, and Fire Brigade, he stops near DC's Office, Metropole Circle before finally reaching the last stop, City Railway Station. At all the other stops, he spends around 20 minutes or more depending on the crowd.

"I have to be at the Railway Station at any cost by 3 am and I am there till around 7 am after which I wind up to go home and catch up some sleep," he says. For doctors, nurses and others on night duty at Cheluvamba and K.R. Hospitals, Manjunath's hot cuppa keeps them alert and awake.

Since he also sells buns, jambuns and dil pasands, he is popular as 'Bun Uncle' among several students who are his regular customers. "Many students, who study late in the night, know where I am standing and at what time and drop in for a cup of tea or coffee and have their share of buns. I have started selling chakkuli and kodubale too now," says Manjunath.

Shravan Thimmaiah, a student of Mysuru working in Bengaluru now, fondly recalls how he and his friends frequented Bun Uncle during their engineering days. "It was a real treat to be able to get a hot cup of tea or coffee at all odd hours. Whenever we studied late or went for a sleepover, we would drive down to where Bun Uncle stood, sip a cup of tea and gobble up those tasty buns," he recalls.

[Continued on Page - 47]

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Indian Healthcare sector is evolving rapidly with advances in technology. The healthcare industry is becoming more aware and smart to lead a healthy life. The consciousness of people especially for their health resulting in the acceptance of more efficient and innovative systems among hospitals and healthcare providers.

St Joseph's Hospital managed by Catholic Diocese of Mysore, a 150 bedded Multi- Specialty Hospital backed up by 40 Specialist and dedicated empanelled Doctors, well known for excellence in safe, ethical and unique nursing care at anaffordable cost to everyone.

The In-Patient specialties are General Medicine, General Surgery, Gynecology, Pediatric and Ortho. We also have an Emergency Care Centre incorporating a Local Injuries and Medical Assessment Unit & is attached with a Nursing College also. The Hospital is having two major operation theaters equipped with latest Equipments to handle any critical cases. 24X7 Pharmacy, Laboratory, Radiology. Emergency and ICU with all necessary life support equipments supported by a team of intensives are available round the clock to cater to the needs of patients with any poly trauma and emergency situations.

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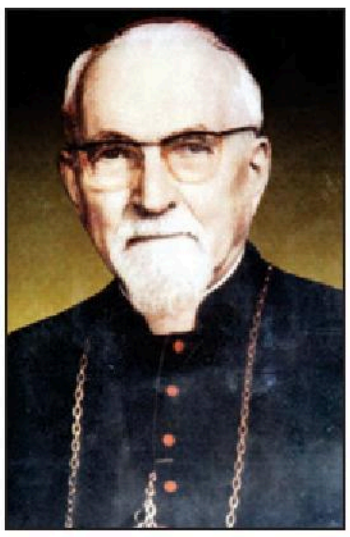
Platinum Philoyatra

Establishing the University of Mysore by Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar in 1916, the eighth oldest University in India, became the cornerstone for series of educational facilities in Mysore. Thanks to the academic philanthropy of the then Bishop of Mysore, **Rt. Rev. Rene Feuga,** who renounced his Mansion to house St. Philomena's College which started in June 1946 during the pre-independent era. The first private Science Degree College in the erstwhile Mysore State, St. Philomena's College, is all set to celebrate its Platinum Jubilee.

The College, over a period of past 74 years, has made rapid strides introducing many new programmes in Science, Arts, Commerce, Business Administration, Computer Applications, Social Work, Tourism and Hotel Management, Vocational Programme etc. It has a separate PG & Research Centre offering 14 PG courses in Science, Arts and Commerce. The College offers Ph.Ds in four Departments and good number of diploma and certificate programmes.

Besides its imposing buildings and beautiful campus, the true



Rt. Rev. Rene Feuga

glory of St. Philomena's lies in the achievements of its students and faculty. The College has produced many educationists, scientists, artists, bureaucrats and professionals who have carried forward the torch of learning and social concern lit in their alma mater.

In recognition of its contribution to the field of higher education, the University Grants Commission (UGC) declared St. Philos as a 'College with Potential for Excellence' in the year 2010. The college attained autonomous status in 2011. From 1.4.2015, UGC has recognised St. Philomena's as 'College of Excellence'. The College had a rare privilege of receiving the then President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, in 2007 for its Diamond Jubilee fete.

The vast green campus, heritage structures, well-equipped Laboratories, Museums, Language Lab, AV studio, Digital Library and state-of-the-art indoor stadium, outdoor stadium and gymnasium enhance the richness of experiential learning of students resulting in holistic development. St. Philomena's Colege is verily a global village with students from 19 different States of India and from many countries across the globe.

Being an autonomous institution with UGC recognition as College of Excellence, St. Philomena's is looking forward to exciting prospects — framing its own challenging and relevant syllabi, conducting its own exams, including extra-curricular activities in the overall student assessment, offering a wide range of options in the curriculum under CBCS pattern with horizontal and vertical mobility, making the college socially relevant and shaping Philomenites as men and women who can hold their heads high and be change-makers in society anywhere in the world.

As the College races past many a milestone in its 74 years sojourn, with a clear vision and renewed mission, it is gearing itself to become a University or at least a Degree Awarding College, in the near future.

Now, at the threshold of the Platinum Jubilee of the College (2020-2021), the Management and the other stakeholders remember with gratitude the noble founding fathers, great and dedicated teachers, Principals, administrators, illustrious students, concerned parents and alumni, international partners, media friends, well-wishers and the members of public for their love and support all through these years in making St. Philomena's what it is today.

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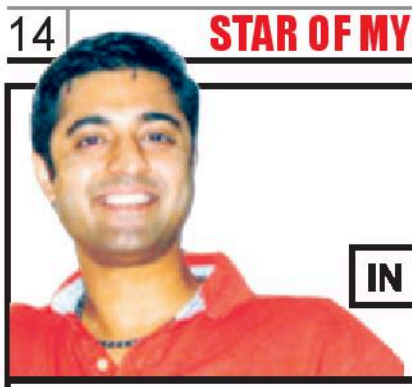

IN BLACK & WHITE

Vikram Muthanna

Aam-azing!

First they ignore you, then they ridicule you, then they fight you, then you win. These words ring so true for the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

Many may remember in 2013 the National parties, BJP and Congress, first ignored them. Then they ridiculed them, with the BJP calling them a '*chillar* party' and Congress calling them 'mango people.' Then they dared them to fight an election. Then the mangoes won. And they have not stopped winning ever since.

Not to sound corny, but Aam Aadmi Party's success in Delhi is an 'aam-azing' feat! Especially, in the face of their only opposition in Delhi, the BJP's, vicious and vitriolic verbal assault.

In early October of 2012, one of India's greatest entrepreneurs, Robert Vadra, son-in-law of Congress Party President, scoffed at members of a movement called India Against Corruption (IAC) when they questioned his links with DLF, a realty company, saying *"Mango men in a Banana Republic."* It was obvious Robert Vadra was mocking Arvind Kejriwal who was still part of the IAC but was planning to form Aam Aadmi Party.

Then on October 5, I saw an interview of the then Law Minister on *NDTV* and a BJP leader's press conference on another TV channel that made me, for the first time, donate money to a political party — Aam Aadmi Party, which came into existence a month later in November.

What I saw on *NDTV* was the then Law Minister of India Salman Khurshid reacting to Kejriwal's allegation against Vadra, where the Law Minister said, *"We will teach Kejriwal a lesson"* and calmly dismissed any chance of a probe into Vadra's DLF deal. As if that wasn't embarrassing enough, he went on to say, *"Hum jaan bhi denge"* when asked about defending the Gandhi family. One would assume education rids a man of a subservient mindset, but alas!

Soon, BJP's Ravishankar Prasad came on TV with nostrils flaring and vocal chords blaring against Congress Party's corruption. But I could not forget how BJP's L.K. Advani, when he was the Home Minister during NDA Government, speaking of the then BJP President Bangaru Laxman taking a bribe, casually said, *"It was just one lakh!"* While Ravishankar Prasad kept speaking of the Congress *"damadh's"* corruption, I could not help but wonder why the BJP Government in Himachal Pradesh approved land to Congress' *"Yuvarani"* Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, when there is a law that prohibits sale of land to non-indigenous people?

It was obvious, rotten apples were ruling us and we needed a shot of mango-madness. And mango madness is what we got.

Kejriwal won in 2013 but soon lost his mind conducting chaotic press conferences and spewing random allegations between bouts of chronic cough. Soon the AAP disintegrated and the Government fell. Kejriwal had been CM for just 49 days.

Many of my colleagues mocked me for donating money to the 'joker in a muffler.' By the way, when I tried to make a donation to Aam Aadmi Party through their website, it was declined with a message saying the party had met their fund requirement! I never expected a political party, that too a young one, to say no to money. All the same I was glad they declined my donation as it would have been wasted, considering the way Kejriwal was behaving.

AAP won again in 2015 but the Kejriwal drama started again and just when I thought the best hope for a new kind of politics was over, suddenly in 2018 it was *"Natak bandh, Kaam shuru!"*

Kejriwal had become calm and his cough had stopped along with his chronic proof-less accusations. AAP went into a development-spree and in 2020, Delhi voted them for it.

Of course, AAP does not practice a 'new kind' of politics. They too cater to vote banks. After all, it was AAP who figured out the power of *'Purvanchali'* vote bank in Delhi. While BJP and Congress were still stuck giving tickets to Punjabi-Baniya candidates, AAP gave 15 tickets in their very first outing to *Purvanchalis* — immigrants from East UP and Bihar. It helped. It is after this that BJP made Manoj Tiwari, a *Purvanchali,* the Delhi BJP President.

Of course, political pundits say because of CAA, Muslims voted for AAP as their traditional choice, Congress Party, had no chance to take on BJP. That's unfair to the AAP voter. AAP may have won by a better margin because of Muslim votes, but AAP won because they have done people's work.

Yes, they have also given freebies, such as electricity up to 200 units, water up to 20,000 litres, free Wi-Fi, free bus ride for women and a free pilgrimage scheme, but most importantly AAP made Government Schools as good as the Private Schools. And when you make life better for children you have their parents' vote.

Today teachers in Delhi get the same facilities during training as that of civil servants. Unlike other States where the Cabinet Ministers go on junkets, in Delhi, Government School Principals are sent abroad for training. 300 Principals were sent to Cambridge University for training. And 26 percent of Delhi Government's budget is for education — the highest in the country.

No wonder in the last two years the pass percentage of Government Schools is better than Private Schools and one must realise that all Government Schools in Delhi are CBSE.

Apart from infrastructure and teachers' quality, the Delhi Government has become experimental in its syllabus. They have launched a 'Happiness Curriculum' to help students learn to be positive and increase their 'emotional quotient.' For the next year, there is a plan to launch an 'Entrepreneurship Curriculum' for students of Class 9 and above.

AAP today is what many of us saw in Modi-led BJP in 2014. Today, while AAP speaks of *vikas* and delivers it, Delhi's BJP speaks of *golis* and an impressionable young man shockingly delivers it ! While AAP was sprucing up local Government Schools, BJP was speaking of National security issues. That is why AAP won.

But this AAP model will not work in other States, at least for now. Also, AAP has the same advantage that BJP has — Leadership vacuum in Opposition. Like how there is no opposition leader to match Modi at the Centre, there is no leader in Delhi to take on Arvind Kejriwal.

That said, it is naive that some media outlets, after AAP's victory, put out headlines such as, *"Beginning of the end of Modi."* The fact is voters seem to have developed a triple voting mindset. Vote one way for Lok Sabha, another way in the Vidhana Sabha and yet another way in Muncipality elections. So, for people who are celebrating AAP's victory thinking it's the end of Modi, be prepared to be disappointed.

But for now, I can't help but recall Kejriwal's prophetic reply to Vadra's mango man tweet in 2012. He had said, *"One day mango men will prove to be the nemesis of the powerful."* And now, eight years later, the mango man has not only ended Congress Party's 15-year rule in Delhi, but also extended BJP's wait to rule Delhi from 22 years to 27 years. AAP has indeed become the nemesis of the powerful in Delhi.

AAP's victory is an important one. It gives hope for politics of development. As a journalist who has become a perpetual cynic, I have a renewed sense of hope in AAP's victory and I am reminded of Nehru's words: *"A moment comes, which comes but rarely in history, when we step out from the old to the new, when an age ends and when the soul of a nation, long suppressed, finds utterance."*

On Feb. 11, 2020, the utterance at least in Delhi, was this: Power is begotten by serving your people not from the barrel of a gun or venom of your tongue. *Jai Hind!*

P.S.: Meanwhile, let's hope AAP's victory forces BJP to go back to its *vikas* model of 2014, instead of the *bakwas* model they tried in Delhi.

e-mail:
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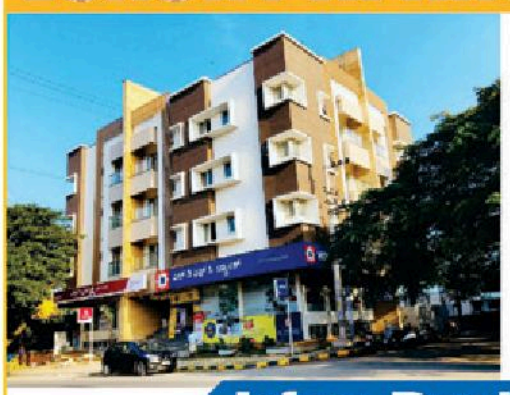

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DC turns his Bungalow into a Nature's Paradise

By B. C. Thimmaiah

Not many Government Officers holding high positions are ready to swap his or her work at the desk for muddy boots. But Mysuru has a **Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar,** who dons many roles apart from being the head of the District. He is a nature-lover, an avid birder, photographer and a gardener with an intimate knowledge of flowering and fruiting plants. Thanks to his initiatives and an inherent love for nature, the DC's Residence on Hunsur Road is a thriving organic farm and a green haven for over 93 bird species.

FLORA-FOUNTAIN: ***The mud-and-waste filled fountain right in front of DC's Bungalow now sports an ornate look. Fertile black soil was brought in from outside to create the flower bed.***

The **DC's Residence,** in an area of two acres with the bungalow at the centre, has more than 2,000 trees. Abhiram took over office in April 2018 and ever since he has been meticulously planning to make his house a green space and with active support from his wife Ramya Shankar, who is also a nature-lover, he has converted the barren space filled with tall grass into a lush green campus amidst the hustle and bustle of the city.

There are over 100 species of plants and evergreen trees, including the ones that were planted and grown before, inside the compound with attractive walkways in the middle which has been made out of discarded interlocking tiles and bricks. Strictly adhering to the policy of creating wealth out of waste, many new saplings including a host of medicinal plants have been planted and the fruiting plants are expected to bear fruits in some years and will feed both humans and birds for generations to come.

Buzz of bees, chirp of birds

Complete with small water points that have been designed with old tyres and discarded concrete round structures that were earlier used to set fire to dry leaves and twigs, the compound now sports small lotus ponds with a lot of lilies and guppy fish to feast on mosquito larvae. There are many water tubs that quench the thirst of visiting birds, squirrels, peacocks and bats. Attractive and designer garden landscapes have also been made using broken tiles and flowering saplings have been planted in them where usually a buzz of bees is heard.

Medicinal plants

There is an exclusive section for medicinal plants inside the compound by the side of a native bamboo bush and there are over 30 species of herbs brought from various nurseries. Along with plants, seeds were procured from different places and sowed inside the compound. These medicinal plants were sourced and brought in with the help of **Botanist Sampath.**

Some of the tree species inside are Rain Tree, Mango, Peepal, Banyan, Cannon Ball Tree, Champa, Cluster Fig, Guava, Jackfruit, Jamoon, Pomegranate, Teak, Water Apple, White Frangipani, Amla, Wood Apple, Banana, Papaya, Anjeer, Tapioca, African Tulip Tree, Ceylon Date Palm, Sita Ashok, Carambola, Star Fruit, Tamarind, Drumsticks, Gulmohar, Mahua, Ramphal, Indian Rosewood, Indian Honge, Mulberry, Avocado (Butter Fruit, Weeping Fig, Benjamin Fig, Singapore Cherry, Indian Soapberry, Peacock Flower or Barbados Pride, Fern Tree, Powder Puff, Karihuli, Orchid Tree, Bottle Brush Barbados Cherry, Lakshmana Phal, Sri Lankan Ironwood or Indian Rose Chestnut. The list is exhaustive and 93 flowering and fruiting trees have been documented along with their scientific names.

[Continued on Page - 20]

UN'TYRE'ING EFFORT: ***Discarded tyres are bounded with eco-friendly material and lilies are grown. The water has guppy fish to arrest mosquito breeding. It is DC's routine to go around the garden with his morning cuppa.***

Vegetable Garden

When Abhiram and his wife shifted to the bungalow, they got the entire rough land that had construction debris, hard soil and tall grass cleared and tilled and the mud was softened. Fertile soil was brought from outside and saplings were planted. The place is a mini forest now and Zoo manure is used to keep the plants healthy. The cultivation is completely organic with neem-based pesticides and there is a host of vegetables grown inside the compound including snake gourd, ladies finger, green leaves, sweet pumpkins, mint leaves, tomatoes and bottle gourd. These vegetables make their way into Deputy Commissioner's kitchen and also distributed among guests and gardeners.

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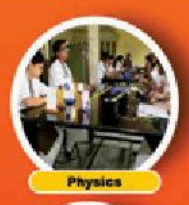
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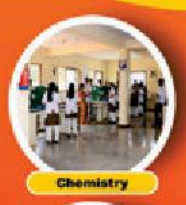
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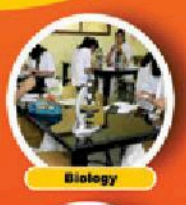
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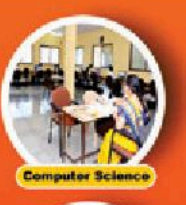
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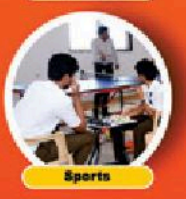
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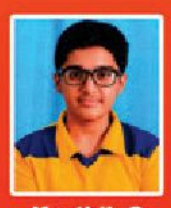

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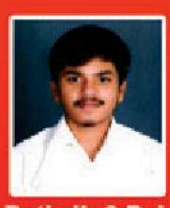

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Nature's Paradise

[Continued from Page - 18]

Grew amidst nature

Hailing from lush green environs of Attingal village in Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala, Abhiram Sankar grew amidst nature and he developed a passion for wildlife and birds at a very young age. "During all summer holidays I used to go to my grandparents' place at Sundarapandyapuram village on the Kerala-Tamil Nadu border that is bounded by green surroundings and my grandfather's house was on the edge of a pristine lake and was a place for the birds to roost and wildlife to quench thirst. I continued this keen interest in nature throughout my education and profession," he says.

Born to Girisankar and Meena Sankar, he had his primary schooling from Sree Chithira Thirunal Residential Central School, Kunnathukal, Thiruvananthapuram and completed his secondary schooling from Arya Central School. He then did his B.Tech in Computer Science from Thangal Kunju Musaliar (TKM) College of Engineering, Kollam in Kerala. He secured fourth rank in the 2011 All India Civil Services Examination and he topped the Civil Services list in Kerala. And he did it in his first attempt.

A complete natural cycle

Many bird-friendly saplings were planted inside the DC's Residence. "We see the results now as birds are roosting on such plants. A favourable environment was created for birds and pollinating flowering trees were planted. We have even retained dead trees without destroying them as insects, beetles and termites feed on them and in turn attracts birds like Barbets and Woodpeckers. So the natural cycle of flowering, pollination, fruiting, dead wood, insect feeding and birds feasting on them is complete here," Abhiram says.

"We are slowly destroying insect population and we are not realising the crisis situation arising out of this. The insect world is crucial for human survival and we should wake up before it is too late," the naturalist in him warns. Both Abhiram and Ramya devote their free time to nature and pick up plants from wherever they visit. Even guests to his home are given saplings as mementoes. "I do not accept gifts and instead tell event organisers to gift me saplings so that they can be nurtured for the future generations," he says.

A stickler for dividing his Office time and home time into water-tight compartments, Abhiram well-guards his private space. "I have friends from seven-year-olds to eighty-year-olds and find time to interact with them, birding, photography and also gardening. The fountain in front of DC's Residence was full of algae and there was stinky water muck inside. We have filled soil in it and have an ornamental garden there now," he says, showing the flora-fountain now.

Contribution of gardeners

TEAM SPIRIT: ***DC Abhiram Sankar with his team of gardeners*** *(from left)* ***Sunil the main gardener, Sheela, Rangaswamy, Jagadeesh and Devaraj.***

Abhiram Sankar does not fail to recall the contribution of his gardeners in keeping the DC's Residence compound green, clean and bustling with birds and bees.

His chief gardener is Sunil who implements the ideas given by the Deputy Commissioner and his wife. Sunil is ably assisted by other gardeners Rangaswamy, Sheela, Jagadeesh and Devaraj. "We could not achieve this today without the help of these gardeners who treat plants like their babies," Abhiram says.

Abhiram's next task is to fix the names of the plants along with their scientific (taxonomy) classification. "I want to do this as a ready reference material so that people realise the importance, rarity and uniqueness of plant species. But I do not know when I will find time for this," he signs off before he rushes to a video-conference at his Office.

TENDING TO HIS 'HEART': ***Abhiram Sankar's green passion.***

DC's bird clicks from his garden

Grey Wagtail

Indian Thick-Knee

Coppersmith Barbet

Indian Golden Oriole

Rose-ringed Parakeet

Spotted Dove

Abhiram is familiar with the fragile ecosystem and biodiversity of Western Ghats and he can identify distinct bird calls and quickly name the species even after dark. Constant practice has given him an added advantage. He began formal photography in 2012 and maintains a list of birds in the e-bird App developed by Cornell University. He has uploaded over 654 bird species in the App that collates information in the form of checklists of birds and their habitats, archive it and freely share it to power new data-driven approaches to science, conservation and education.

"The best thing about birding is that one need not travel to an exotic location to document birds. Just step out of your home and you will see birds. Birds are there everywhere, one need to learn to identify them," he says.

First to sight a Large Cuckooshrike

He has photographed over 93 species of birds at the DC's Residence including rare owls which he heard only twice. Abhiram was the first person in Mysuru to sight a Large Cuckooshrike (Coracina macei), a species of Cuckooshrike found in the Indian Subcontinent. "I am attuned to bird sounds," he says.

Two giant trees inside the DC's Residence compound, one at the side and one right in front of the bungalow, have been added to the Heritage Trees list. They are *Ficus Benjamina* and *Bombax pentandra* (white silk-cotton tree).

Eurasian Hoopoe

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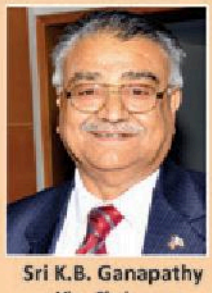
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Eclipse Chaser

Meet city's octogenarian umbraphile who travels the globe chasing a blackened Sun

By B.C. Thimmaiah

Though a total solar eclipse occurs about every 18 months or so, its visibility at any particular place is extremely rare. In order to experience the full effect of the eclipse, one must be on the 'path of totality', a narrow strip of the Earth's surface — the umbra — where the Moon entirely covers up the Sun for a very short duration. The closer you get to the central line on the path of totality, the longer it lasts.

Total solar eclipses can be addictive. Once you have seen one, you are hooked and world over, we have thousands of 'umbraphiles' (the Latin word 'umbra' meaning 'shadow') who travel the globe chasing the Moon's shadow.

One such umbraphile is Mysurean **Dr. S.N. Prasad.** His interest in the observational aspects of Astronomy was roused by a breath-taking view of the great comet Ikeya-Seki one early morning in late 1965 and he has been pursuing it ever since. Using two portable telescopes, he began to observe the wonders of the night sky extensively and set up observation sessions frequently to educate students and teachers. The great total solar eclipse of 1980, visible in parts of North Karnataka, triggered his obsession for viewing a darkened Sun in the shadow of the Moon. He is now a dedicated 'Eclipse Chaser' as well as an amateur astronomer.

What makes total solar eclipses so addictive to eclipse chasers? A total solar eclipse is one of the most magnificent and rarest of rare spectacles put on by nature and in the words of the celebrated 'Mr. Eclipse' Fred Espenak, it is electrifying, sublime, awesome and humbling, all at the same time. For most people, it is a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Abiding interest in Observational Astronomy

Besides his wide-ranging professional activities as a science teacher-educator, Dr. Prasad has an abiding interest in Observational Astronomy and its related disciplines of Astrophysics and Cosmology. He is the former Principal and Professor of Physics, Regional Institute of Education (NCERT), Mysuru, and an educational consultant with over 40 years of professional experience. He is also actively involved in popularisation of science through lectures, demonstrations and writings.

Travelling and Photography

Prasad loves travelling and photography and the two passions combined have led to many travelogues and photo-essays on a variety of topics published in his own blog. He has toured a large number of countries in the last few years and has observed total solar eclipses in China (2009), Indonesia (2016), and USA (2017), besides India (1980). He has also observed other interesting eclipses like the annular solar eclipse that occurred recently on Dec. 26, 2019. To see this, he led a team of ten enthusiasts from Mysuru to Bekal Beach Park in Kerala.

At Tungabhadra Dam

"Of all the eclipses I have seen, I consider the one that occurred on Feb. 16, 1980 as the best. I watched it from the scenic Tungabhadra Dam site with my family and friends on a glorious afternoon," he says. At that time, Dr. Prasad was a UGC Research Fellow working at the Raman Research Institute, Bengaluru, under the guidance of Prof. S. Chandrasekhar FRS, a nephew of Prof. C.V. Raman. Dr. Prasad earned his doctorate degree in Physics soon after.

Anji, Palu and Clarkesville

For the eclipse of July 22, 2009, he went to a remote hilly tourist resort near Anji city, about 80 km northwest of the big city of Hangzhou deep inside China because of its promising weather outlook. "Here, the duration of totality was a whopping 5 minutes and 48 seconds. With clear skies most of the time, my expensive gamble paid off," he says.

A solar filter-covered camera set-up used to photograph the annular solar eclipse at Dhanushkodi on Jan. 15, 2010.

Not stopping at this, Dr. Prasad travelled to the beautiful coastal city of Palu in Central Sulawesi province of Indonesia to see the eclipse of March 9, 2016 where he says he was rewarded with a wonderful spectacle. Clarkesville near Nashville, Tennessee in USA was his outing for the eclipse of Aug. 21, 2017 that was only marginally less spectacular.

Near-perfect 'ring of fire'

"My first rendezvous with an annular solar eclipse was at Dhanushkodi on January 15, 2010. The duration of annularity was an exceptionally long 10 minutes and 15 seconds, the longest in the whole of this millennium. The exposed area of the near-perfect 'ring of fire' was so large that there was hardly any noticeable drop in the brightness of the day," Dr. Prasad reveals.

In contrast, a significant drop in both the brightness of the day and the atmospheric temperature marked the onset of annularity in the eclipse of Dec. 26, 2019.

[Continued on Page - 30]

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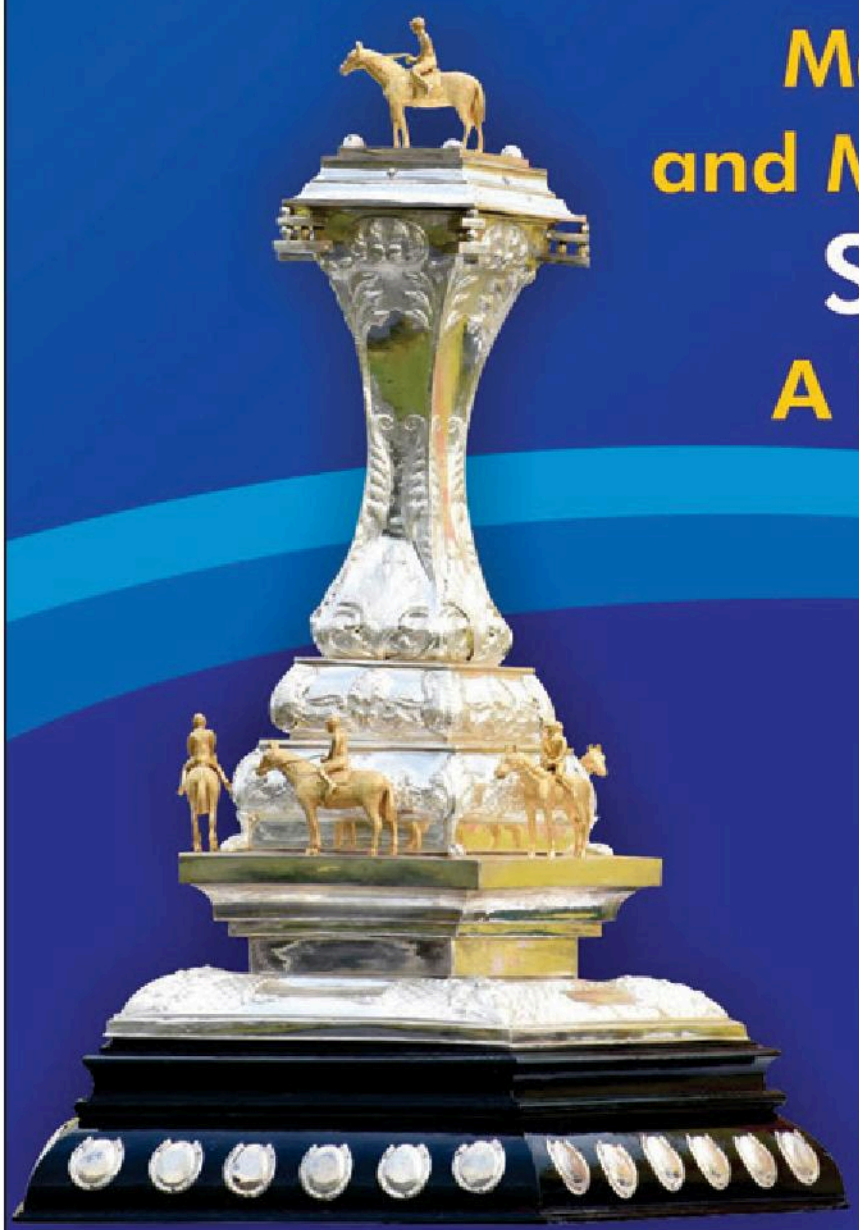

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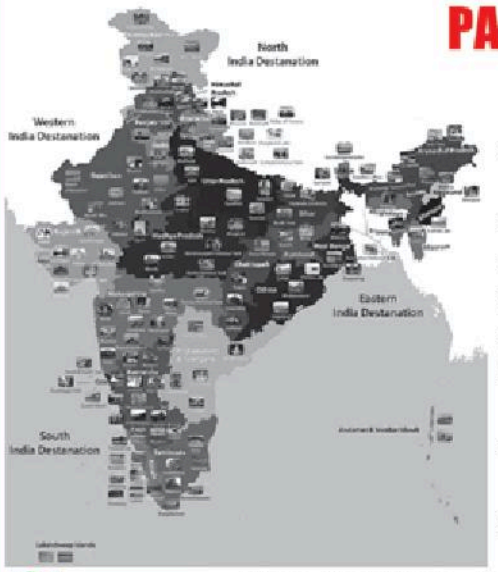

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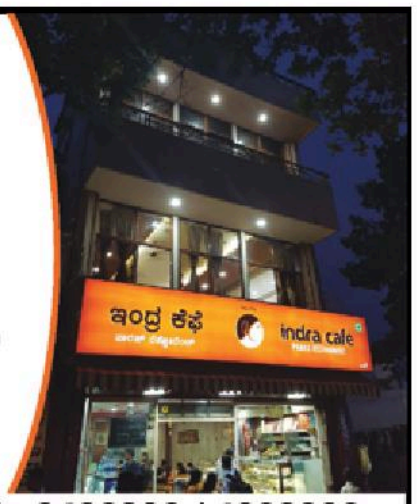

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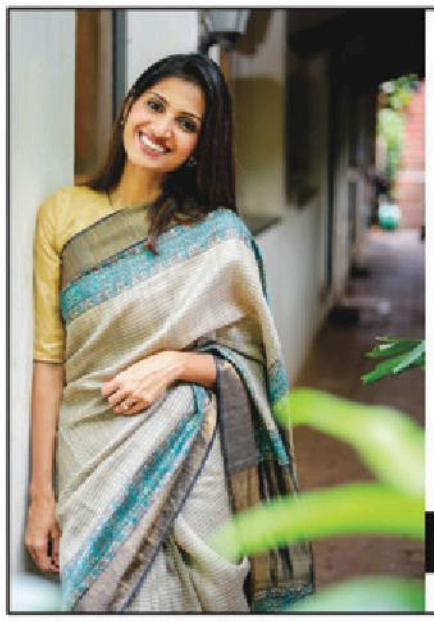

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Mysuru Railway is now an e-Office

Hubballi, Feb. 16 (UNI)- The Zonal Head Quarters (HQ) and all three Division Offices of South Western Railway (SWR) including Mysuru Division have adopted paperless work culture as implementation of National Informatics Centre (NIC) e-Office has been completed.

SWR is the first Zone to complete work after commencement of the project. The work was executed by RailTel. To implement e-Office, 2,473 users in these four establishments of SWR, who deal with files, have been created, mapped and trained in data entry, programming and workflow and to deal files on e-Office.

The Indian Railways signed the MoU for the Phase-I with RailTel in March 2019 with a mandate to complete the work by March 2020.

Implementation of NIC e-Office aims to usher in paperless, more efficient, effective and transparent inter-Government and intra-Government transactions and processes. The work at Hubballi and Mysuru Division was executed under the Phase II of e-Office execution and completed a fortnight of signing the MoU. To help connect old files, digitalisation by scanning old physical files into digital files has started. More than 2,880 manual files have been converted into digital files.

The aim of e-Office implementation for Indian Railways is to provide reliable, efficient and effective way to handle Office files and documents. The Zonal HQ Hubballi and Bengaluru Division have been using e-Office platform since July 2019. There is an absolute transparency as noting on the file cannot be undone. There is also a monitoring mechanism to check where the files are held up. It will certainly help in faster movement of files and quick decision making.

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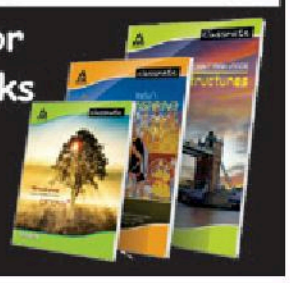

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Sunday 16th February 2020 43rd ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL ISSUE STAR OF MYSORE 29

Feeding a Zoo!

What it takes to feed carnivores, omnivores, frugivores, insectivores, foliavores and nectavores

Rabbits kept for breeding.

Zoo staff at the Live Feed Breeding Unit displaying white rats that have bred.

A Royal Bengal White Tiger feeding on meat.

Variety of food including fodder with salt, eggs ready for distribution at the kitchen.

By S. Kenneth Shishir

One might think feeding a Zoo is easy. But Zoo keepers say that a lot of planning and preparation goes into animal diets. With more than 100 species of animals, reptiles and birds residing at Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens or Mysuru Zoo, there are some interesting food requirements which need to be provided and catered for. Carnivores, omnivores, frugivorous, insectivores, foliavores, nectavores, combinations of the above and others all need to be considered.

Food preparation and supply is a time-consuming and expensive portion of having a large animal collection. Individual needs for each species is carefully assessed and reassessed on an ongoing basis. Throughout the day, Zoo keepers distribute the food on feeding tours and provide supplementary meals.

It's not always possible to feed the animals what they would eat in the wild. The tigers, for example, can't be fed deer meat, so they get beef. Zoo nutritionists analyse each animal's diet from its native habitat, including the vitamin and mineral content. Then they try to come up with a replacement that has all the same properties.

Some animals, coming from the wild or other Zoos, have to be trained to eat foods other than what they're used to, and it can take a while for diet planners to come up with a nutritious diet that the animal likes, or recognises as food. Some animals are just plain picky eaters, such as birds or snakes that show a preference for certain live mice or insects.

The role food plays in an animal's life is important, too. If, in the wild, an animal normally spends all day hunting or foraging for food, then it needs to do the same at the Zoo. The Mysuru Zoo is the first Zoo in the country to have a vermin-compost unit, in-house meal worm and super worm production units and a live feed breeding unit.

Disease-free nutritious food

Maintaining the animals, birds and reptiles is a tremendous task especially to ensure their health for which disease-free nutritious food is required, says Mysuru Zoo Executive Director Ajit M. Kulkarni. The Zoo spends about Rs. 6 crore to Rs. 6.5 crore annually only on animal food without compromising on quality.

Ajit M. Kulkarni
Mysuru Zoo Executive Director

There are five types of food namely meat (beef, prawns, fish and poultry), fodder, green fodder, grains, fruits and vegetables and bread, milk and eggs and these are tendered from suppliers through e-tenders. Meat is procured from a licensed slaughter house daily and the animals are first certified by the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) Veterinarian and then slaughtered. Carcasses are then brought to the Zoo where the veterinarian certifies whether it is fit for feeding.

Food as per body weight

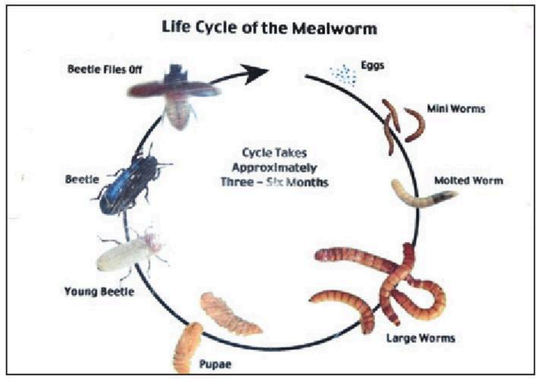
The carcass is then weighed and distributed among carnivores according to their body weight. For example, the meat given to a tiger weighs one tenth of its body weight. If the animal is pregnant or has given birth or in need of more food, the food needed is calculated and then given. Also, the quantity of the food varies on the condition of the animal. Before feeding, their food is once again checked by the respective animal-keepers, Kulkarni explains.

Every Tuesday is a fasting day for carnivorous animals or whenever slaughter houses are closed. For example, if the slaughter house is closed on Thursday, meat is fed to animals on Tuesday and Thursday will be a fasting day. A day's fasting enables animals to keep good health.

Dry rations – grains, pulses, *busa*, oil cakes, brawn, and poultry feed, jaggery, salt etc. are supplied once in 15 days and they are stored in a rodent-proof and moist-proof store room. Best grade fruits and vegetables fit for human consumption is procured from HOPCOMS and even if there is a minor quality issue, items are sent back and replaced.

Though bread is not a main diet, it is procured to feed animals in case of oral medication and a diet chart is maintained for each animal (sex-wise and health-wise). Water is drawn from bore wells and every enclosure has a water connection.

During summer, primates (chimps, monkeys etc.) are fed with high-water-containing fruits to cope with dehydration and salt balance. Dry fruits such as almonds, grapes, raisins, cashew etc. are given during winter to withstand cold. Pheasants and small primates are fed with super worm and meal worm which are in-house production. Rats and mice are also bred at the live feed breeding unit.



*THE LIFE CYCLE OF THE MEALWORM: **From mini worms to molten worms to large worms and then young beetles. At every stage, they are a meal for a different species of birds and animals***

Zoo Assistant Director Dr. K.R. Ramesh on his way to inspect feeding by animal-keepers.

Store and kitchen

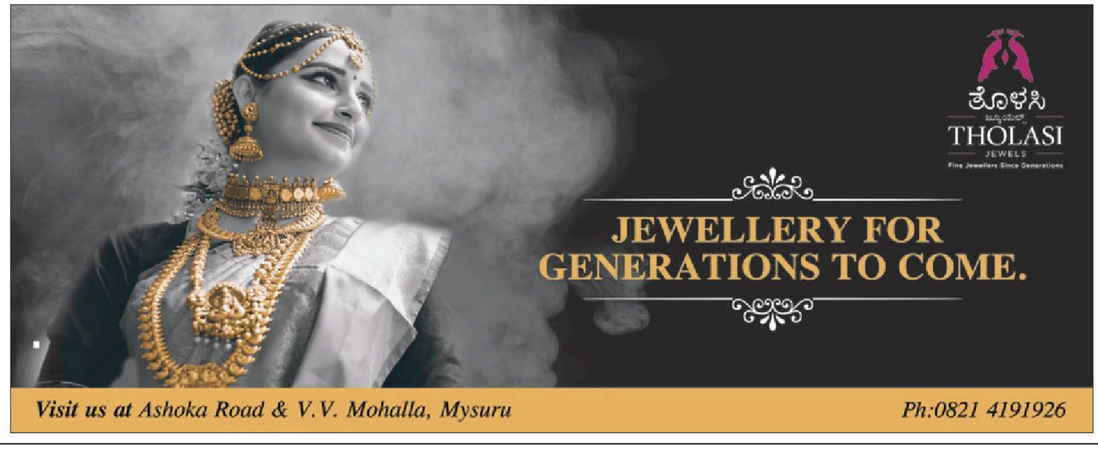
The Mysuru Zoo has a kitchen and a store in one of the oldest buildings on the premises. A new building with separate sections — with financial assistance from Central Zoo Authority — has been constructed. There is separate provision to store foodgrains, kitchen, and record room and computerised weighing bridge for accurate weighing and documentation. The store is rodent-proof and moist-free.

Different agencies have been fixed to supply food on tender basis and supplies are obtained through government organisations for certain items. Indents are placed to supply food as per prescribed diet charts. Proper cleaning before distribution of food in a systematic manner is ensured. The store functions under the direct supervision of Range Forest Officer and checked by Assistant Director and Deputy Director. Proper sanitation and good hygiene is maintained in the kitchen and store.

Zoo Assistant Director and Head of the Veterinary Section Dr. K.R. Ramesh says, utmost importance is given to ensure that good quality food is given to animals. Various tests are conducted after procuring food items and only after they find food items fit for animal consumption, it is distributed.

[Continued on Page - 31]

This is the building that houses the Zoo store and kitchen.



Eclipse Chaser

Dr. S. N. Prasad with his simple, improvised viewing equipment on July 22, 2009 at a hilly resort near Anji city in Southeast China.

[Continued from Page - 22]

Great Total Solar Eclipse on April 8, 2024

Ask about his disappointments, Dr. Prasad says he is sad to have missed the total solar eclipses of May 20, 2012 in North-Eastern Australia and the latest one on July 2, 2019 in Chile. "Though another annular eclipse is due in parts of Northern India on June 21, 2020 and a total one on Dec. 14, 2020 in Chile/ Argentina, I will have to wait till April 8, 2024 for another great total solar eclipse, which can be best seen in Texas, USA," he says with a rueful smile.

However, the immediate goal of this 82-year-old umbraphile is to muster up another small group of enthusiasts for observing the annular solar eclipse of June 21 this year from a desert site in Rajasthan.

Dr. Prasad has had a distinguished academic career in Bengaluru during the fifties. He was a National Merit Scholar at the Central College, Bangalore University, passing out in 1960 with a Master's degree in Physics. The University of Mysore awarded him a doctorate degree in Physics for his research work on "Infrared and Raman Spectroscopy of Aligned Liquid Crystals" done at the Raman Research Institute, Bengaluru during 1977-81.

His inspirations

He won the NCERT Seminar Readings Award in 1984 for a paper titled "A Continuing Experiment in Astronomy Education." He also received a citation in 1986 from the London-based Commonwealth Association of Science, Technology and Mathematics Educators for his long-standing work on Astronomy Education. Inspired by activists and visionaries like Dr. H. Narasimhaiah (whom he knew well personally) and Dr. Narendra Dabholkar, Dr. Prasad is a strong believer in combating blind beliefs and superstitions. He also believes in developing a scientific temper in all walks of life through both proactive and reactive interventions.

"The plethora of bizarre beliefs and mindless rituals associated with the wonderful and utterly harmless natural celestial phenomena like eclipses, practiced even by the educated elite, are as deeply disturbing as they are meaningless," he sighs ■

Dr. Prasad at his observing post at Palu in Indonesia on March 9, 2016. With his thumb up is Tommi Sirkia, a tourist and musical artiste from Finland.

The picturesque hilly resort near Anji city, China, from where Dr. Prasad observed the eclipse. Notice the extensive display of eclipse-related posters.

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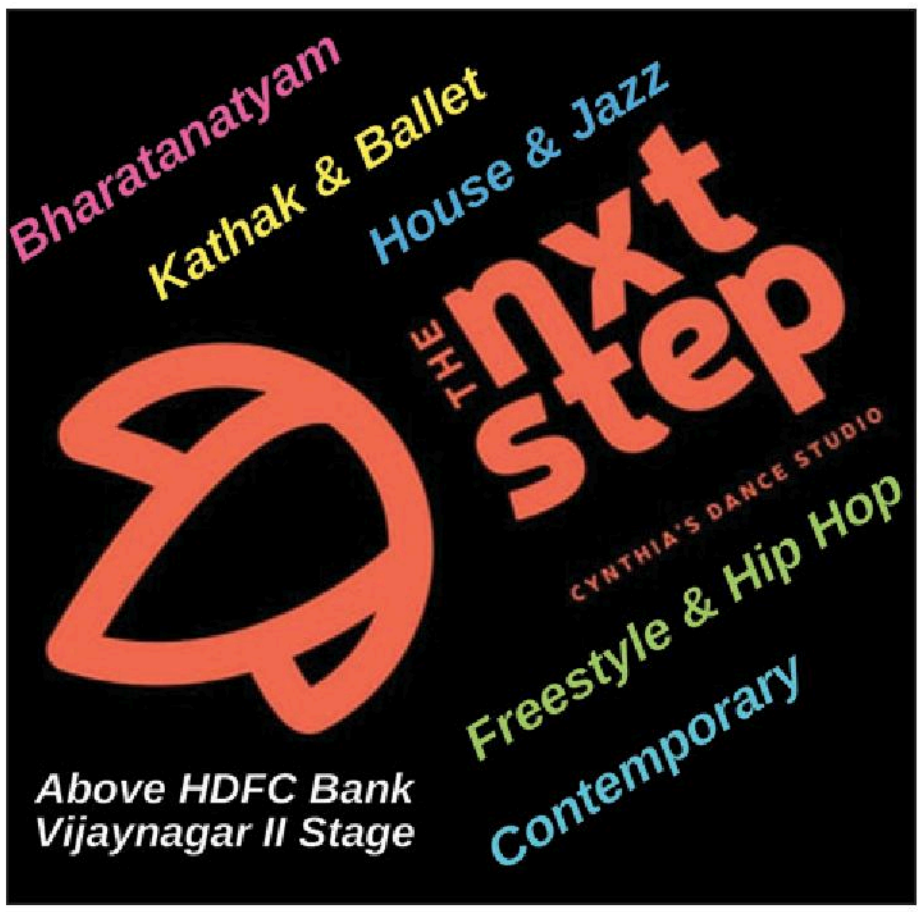

Feeding a Zoo !

[Continued from Page - 29]

Citing an example, Dr. Ramesh says after the certified carcass is brought to the Zoo store, it is evaluated once again at the Zoo and periodically, samples are sent to Institute of Animal Health & Veterinary Biologicals (IAH&VB) Lab in Bengaluru for testing. "If we are not happy with the meat quality, we reject it right away and then a sample is sent to the Lab," he explains.

There are 151 species and each specie has its own diet chart based on the observations made by the animal-keepers and food is distributed accordingly, maintaining the natural feeding habit of each species. There are many insectivorous and they are fed with insects produced in-house. Some primates like to feed on grasshoppers which are procured from agricultural fields.

Meal worm and super worm breeding unit

Mysuru Zoo is first in the country to establish meal worm and super worm breeding unit 10 years ago and the technology is much sought after by other zoos. At the unit, eggs of beetles are kept in trays, which then hatches and mini worms emerge from it.

The mini worms are then separated and put into another tray along with food, where it develops into large worms and then into pupae from where young beetles emerge to grow into adults. The whole process takes about 45 to 50 days.

Live Feed Breeding Unit

The Live Feed Breeding Unit was established more than 20 years ago where mice, rats and rabbits are bred.

Also, chicken eggs are hatched. The young ones, after a few days, are separated according to sizes and these are fed to reptiles and the size of the prey is decided based on the length and age of the snake. The units are maintained by Krishna and his team.

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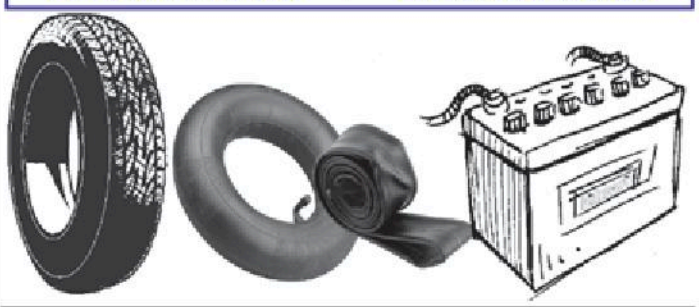
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Illustrations from the Kitchen

"Here is the story of a small girl who was amazed by the beautiful and inspiring Raja Ravi Varma's paintings displayed at Mysore Palace. As she grows up and gets busy with life like everyone else, she never forgets her dream of becoming an artist. So much so that a small part of her kitchen becomes an art studio and she starts working on paintings there during her spare time. Now, she is an acclaimed artist preserving the rich tradition of Mysore style painting.

M. Girija creating an art piece at her kitchen.

By M.T. Yogesh Kumar

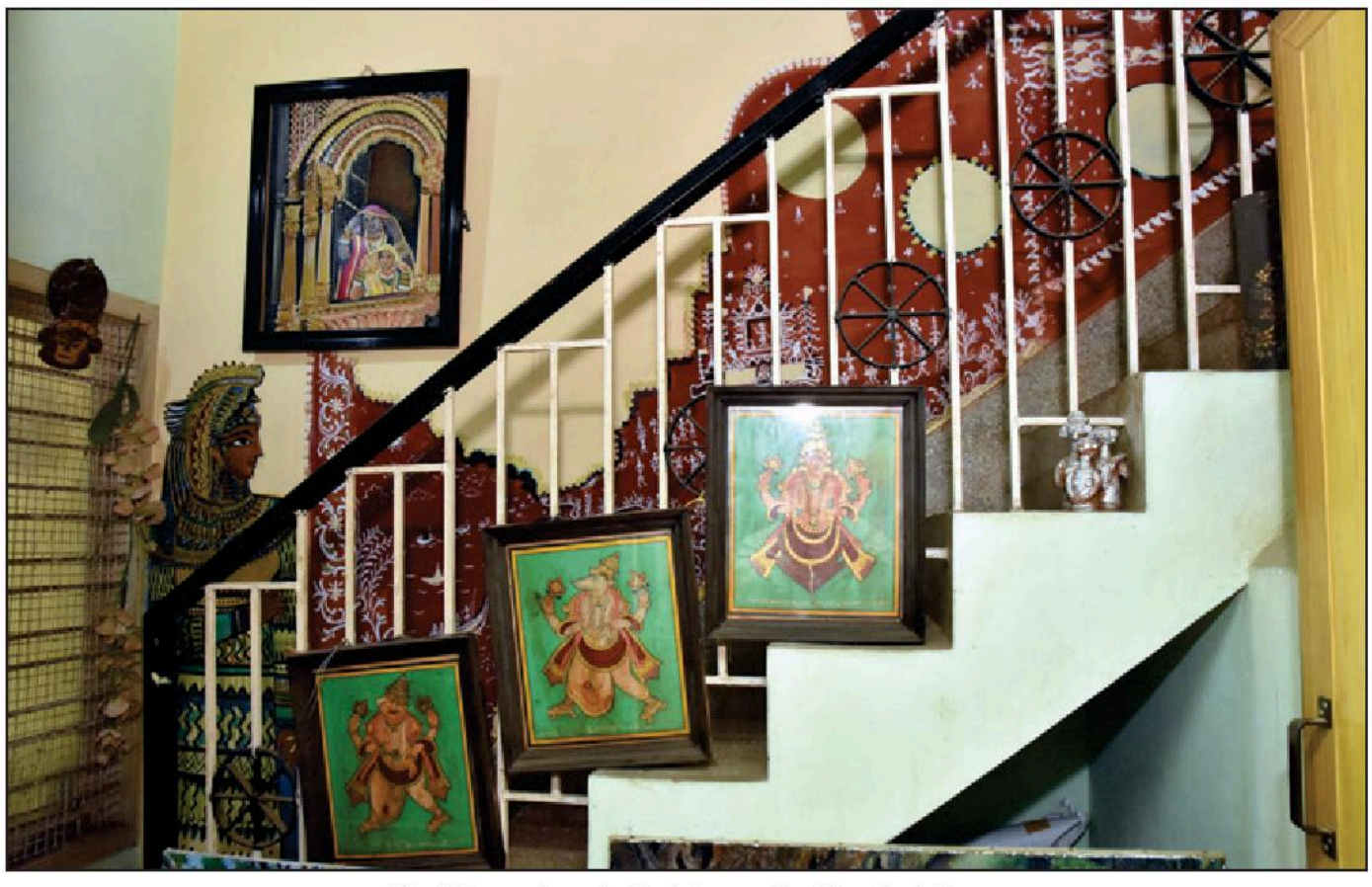
M Girija's flair for fine arts manifested in her early years which she has pursued throughout her life. She learnt Mysore style of traditional art from eminent artist late Subramanya Raju of Karnataka Chitrakala Parishat, Bengaluru. After a long stint of working in State Bank of India, she has now devoted most of her time to create artworks, in particular Ganjifa art and Mysore style art.

Her house is nestled in the busy lane of New Kantharaj Urs Road opposite JSS Law College in Kuvempunagar. The hustle and bustle of the busy road fades out as one steps into the living room which has been colourfully adorned with numerous artworks on all four sides. One that grabs attention the most is a stupendous work of art on the wall depicting three basic elements of nature *(Pancha Bhuta)* — water, air and fire with Lord Shiva, a principal deity of Hinduism. As we climb the stairs, standard size vintage paintings of Narasimha, Varaha and other Godheads welcome us to reach the Art Gallery on the first floor. This Art Gallery houses numerous Mysore traditional paintings, Ganjifa designs of different sizes and themes along with a large collection of antique artworks.

"When I was working, it was hard for me to find time for my favourite leisure activity. This is the reason why I set up all the necessary things like canvas, brushes and paint at the corner of my kitchen and started working in between my daily domestic chores," says Girija.

A visiting faculty at the School of Design in University of Mysore, Girija has tutored many pupils in Mysore traditional painting and also has authored several articles in a number of magazines and books. Recipient of numerous awards including winner of prestigious 'Karnataka State Award' in Fine Arts by the Government of Karnataka in 2009 as well as Rotary Friendship Award in 2016, she has held about 32 solo and group exhibitions in India and abroad including UK, USA and Singapore and has painted about 2,000 standard size artworks till date. She has executed 12 x 8 feet colossal work of Goddess Chamundeshwari at CAVA. Her depiction of Goddess Sharadamba adorns Shankara Mutts of Mysuru, Hyderabad and Chennai.

[Continued on Page - 33]



The stairway adorned with vintage and traditional paintings.

Illustrations from the Kitchen

[Continued from Page - 32]

Girija's paintings have been housed permanently at the 'Sacred Art Collection' of Brussels, Belgium, as well as in ISKCON, Mathura. Numerous art connoisseurs in India and abroad have acquired her artworks. Her husband Kumar, a retired Deputy Director of CFTRI, greatly admires and supports Girija. Her daughter Ramya Kumar is also a budding artist.

The origins of Mysore paintings date back to the early days of the Wadiyars of Mysore. Krishnaraja Wadiyar III is credited with nurturing this style, helping it gain a unique place in art history.

Mysore paintings are mostly artworks representing mythological scenes and the royal family. Either they were executed as individual paintings or as murals for display on the walls of Palaces, mansions, temples and other religious places. The Mysore tradition is an offshoot of the Vijayanagar School of painting.

Though similar to Tanjore paintings in designs, Mysore paintings come with less decoration. Though they look simple, they are elegant and graceful with attention to details. With the fall of Vijayanagar Empire, artists from there migrated to places like Mysuru, Tanjore and Surapura, absorbed the local artistic traditions and customs, and developed new styles, the famous ones being the Mysore and Tanjore styles.

Ganjifa art and Mysore style of traditional art are two unique art forms patronised by Maharajas. Among these two, creating a Mysore style of traditional art comprises basic 'gesso' work, use of traditional colours and thin real 24-carat gold foil for embellishments. The most popular themes are the traditional deities of Hindu pantheon.

Ganjifa is an ancient card game, also known as 'Kreeda Patra' in Sanskrit and can be traced back to Mughal era. Ganjifa means money or treasure and the art form is executed with a super-fine brush using natural colours and gold on ivory board or sandalwood sheets.

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Spicy, tangy... Churumuri *Mysuru ishtyle!*

By Nandini Srinivasan

Spice is life, depends upon what you like. Yes, food is serious but you should have fun with it! You realise this when you see people at the roadside eateries! No dining etiquette, no table manners and no costly cutlery. It's just fun eating, slurping! Though roadside eateries have evolved, the humble *bondas, vadas* and the puffed rice variants — *Churumuri, Bhel-puri,* remain all-time favourites.

Like every State in India, Karnataka has its own favourite evening snack, be it the *Mirchi Mandakki* from North Karnataka or the *Churumuri* from South Karnataka. This tasty mix of puffed rice, grated carrots and other seasonings has since seen many variations but the base remains the same — *puri* or puffed rice.

It is said that the dish actually has its origins in Bengal and was originally called *Jhalmuri,* an assortment of spices, vegetables and *chanachur* or *bhujia.* The uniqueness of this dish is that it has been modified to suit the city it thrives in. So it's *Jhalmuri* in Bengal and Bangladesh, *Bhel-puri* in Maharashtra, *Masala Pori* in Tamil Nadu, *Mandakki* in North Karnataka and *Churumuri* in Mysuru and Bengaluru. **In fact, the *Bhel-puri* has taken on a continental flavour and has travelled to London, thanks to Chef Angus Denoon, who sells it out of a cart called "Everybody Love Love Jhal Muri Express" — that he sells a packet of *Jhalmuri* at 3.50 pounds (around Rs.320) is another matter!**

'While *Bhel-puri* and *Masala Pori* have a little of wet ingredients like tamarind syrup or boiled peanuts, *Churumuri* is completely a dry mixture. It's a delightful, crunchy salad with finely grated carrots, a little spice mixture, a handful of Congress *kadlekai* (spiced-shelled peanuts), chopped onions, tomatoes and a dash of lime and coriander. All this cosily packed in a conical paper cup. *Churumuri* is never relished on a plate!

And a bite of the special *kobbari mitai* (the long coconut burfi which is unlike the regular square shaped burfis) which has a unique taste is a must as it soothes the taste buds which have flared up with the spices in the *Churumuri.*

Vanajakshi doing business at Gokulam in the evneings.

There are approximately around 350 *Churumuri* sellers in Mysuru but a few of them have been there since more than four decades and still going strong.

Marimallapa's School

Churumuri Ramanna, one of the first *Churumuri* makers, set up stall in front of Marimallapa's School on Rama Vilas Road around 60 years ago and today his wife and son continue to sell *Churumuri* from near Sadvidya High School in the same vicinity.

What started off as a simple mixture of *puri,* tomato and cucumber, today has 14 different varieties including *Jain Churumuri* without onions, *Raja Special, Hesarubele Masala* and *Pomegranate Churumuri.* The special *kobbari mitai* which is dipped in a mixture of lemon and spice is a new addition which has many takers.

Jayamma, Ramanna's wife, who continued the Churumuri business, is happy that they have several repeat customers and even today hundreds of old students of both the schools from all over India and other countries make a compulsory visit to their cart when they are in Mysuru. **Paramesh,** her son who continues to help her, says they add to the varieties depending on the demand.

Kalidasa Road & Gokulam

Vanajakshi, who has her Churumuri cart on Kalidasa Road, Jayalakshmipuram (from 1 pm to 6 pm) and in Gokulam (from 6.30 pm to 10.30 pm) took over the business after her husband fell sick five years ago. Her *Churumuri* concoctions are a hot favourite with several yoga students in the area, especially those from foreign countries.

Her cucumber and tomato slices smeared with chilly powder and topped with *puri* and peanuts are a big hit with the yoga students. They eat spicy *Churumuri* than what our people eat, says Vanajakshi and adds that the pineapple, banana stem and baby corn *Churumuri* are also a big sell out with the yoga crowd. "I have learnt a little English too to deal with them. And on Kalidasa Road, a number of Medical students who stay in PGs nearby are my regular customers. I use a lot of sprouts in the *Churumuri* as it is healthy," she says.

Kotwal Ramaiah Street

If you relish the taste of garlic in your *Churumuri,* then **Chatpatta,** a regular shop on Kotwal Ramaiah Street near Hong Kong Bazaar, is the place to go to. The shop which started around 20 years back is a favourite joint for those who need their share of pungent garlic aroma with pure ghee in their cone of *Churumuri.*

Nagaraj Gupta started the shop in the late 80s and now his son **Raghuram,** who runs it, has added several other snacks and variants of *Churumuri,* the signature one being the *chakli masala, biscuit masala* and *gold coin.* The shop sees a regular stream of a minimum of 200 customers a day with the number reaching over 400 on weekends.

Ballal Circle

Another very popular *Churumuri* joint is in Ballal Circle, where the old Ganesha Theatre stood. Started way back in the 70s by his uncle, **Cheluvaraju** has been managing the shop and his customers are mostly children from nearby schools. "Many kids want me to give them *Churumuri* for the money they have. So most of the time, I give them the quantity for the money they give and don't insist on my standard rates," says Cheluvaraju. The most sold varieties here are tomato slices, *nippatu masala* and *special churumuri.* The speciality of *Mysuru Puri* is its light weight which lends itself to easy mixing. While Bengaluru gets its *Puri,* which is slightly thicker, mainly from Davanagere, Mysuru gets its supplies from the bhattis in Hinkal, J.P. Nagar, N.R. Mohalla and Mahadevapura.

Raghu, one of the wholesale dealers, says that most of the *Churumuri* vendors buy at least 60 litres of *Puri* every day. Presently, one litre of *Puri* costs Rs. 7.

1. Ratna Nagaraj & family treating customers at Shivarampet. 2. Manjunath with his cart at Ballal Circle. 3. Churumuri Ramanna's wife Jayamma at her stall near Marimallappa's School.

DID YOU KNOW...?

- 'Studio 28' was the first cinema multiplex, then called as 'megaplex' which opened on December 25, 1965 and closed in 2008. It was located in Wyoming, Michigan, USA.
- PVR Anupam Saket in New Delhi was the first multiplex built in India in June 1997.
- The largest multiplex in India is the 14-screen multiplex by Mayajaal in Chennai.
- DRC Cinemas, Mysuru's first multiplex, was formally opened to the public on October 1, 2011.
- Tamil Nadu has the largest number of cinema theatres in India with a total count of 745.

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Tales from Family Lore...

By Girija Madhavan

Images of the 1920s and early 1930s are reprints of the descriptions of my father, M. Venkatesh and mother Mukta, a memory bank for me. Venkatesh was an engineer in the Mysore State Railways.

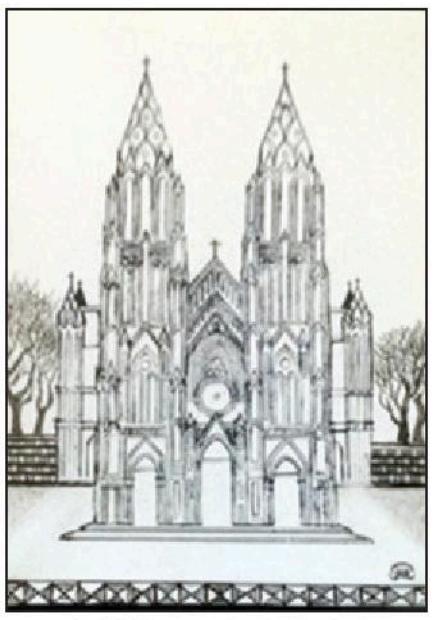
Mysore was a conservative society, each community adhering strictly to their customs but living together in amity. My parents moved from Lakshmipuram where they were neighbours of R.K. Narayan and his family, to the first of the Railway Bungalows on Krishna Raja Sagar (KRS) Road, Yadavagiri.

At that time some English officials of the Railways also lived in Mysore. Father spoke of the Sinclairs whose family photo was in our album. In this enclave, D.V. Narasimha Rao who founded the National Institute of Engineering (NIE), lived next door. His wife Tripurasundari Devi would drop in, dressed in silk sarees in *"Kachche"* style, diamonds glittering in her ears and nose rings. She spoke mellifluous Telugu, the "Italian of the East", according to Mukta.

Diana Mirza

Rohinton and Diana Mirza, nee Kotawala, were neighbours too. Diana, an exotic beauty, wore her saree in the Parsi style, a diaphanous scarf tied around her head. She was made up like the western film stars of those times; bright lipstick, plucked eyebrows, a kiss curl on each cheek. Her two unmarried sisters, Nurgesh and Zarina Kotawala also lived with her. Nurgesh wrote poetry and a slim volume of hers was on our bookshelf for many years. Zarina had a newspaper column on social events.

The Thumboo Chetty family was influential in Karnataka. T.R.A. Thumboo Chetty was a devout Catholic. He had held high office in the Mysore Court in the late 19th century. His fourth son Bernard Trichinopoly Thumboo Chetty [1877-1952] carried on the family tradition. Maharaja Krishnaraja Wadiyar conferred honours and titles on him and his wife. He took over the post of "Huzur Secretary to the Maharaja" from Sir Mirza Ismail in 1922. The British honoured him with an OBE in 1935 and a knighthood in 1946. His wife, Selvavathy's Christian name was Gertrude; after her husband's knighthood she was addressed as Lady Thumboo Chetty.



St. Philomena's Cathedral [A line drawing by Girija]

The Thumboo Chettys were devotees of St. Philomena, a thirteen-year Greek Princess, said to have been martyred in 304 AD. Thumboo Chetty obtained a relic of the saint from Rome and a church was built in her name. Maharaja Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar laid the foundation stone for it in 1933. A French architect, Daly, built the church in neo-Gothic style, resembling Cologne Cathedral. There are stained glass windows and a statue of Philomena in the Cathedral. Some church scenes for the film *"Amar, Akbar, Anthony"* may have been shot there. It is now called the "Cathedral of St. Joseph and St. Philomena" as an older church of St. Joseph existed in the same area, founded by Mummadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar in 1843.

The Thumboo Chettys named their elder daughter Philomena Rukmavathy. Excelling in violin from a very young age, she went abroad in her teens for higher studies in music. A concert artiste, she was acclaimed for her virtuosity and praised by Yehudi Menuhin. She always wore a saree for her recitals, set off by Indian ornaments, favouring a bejewelled *"Daabu"* [gold belt]. In 1934 she and her mother were presented at the court of King George V and Queen Mary. An account in *"scroll.in"* describes Philomena in a red and gold saree wearing emerald jewellery while the mother was resplendent in purple and gold set off by diamonds.

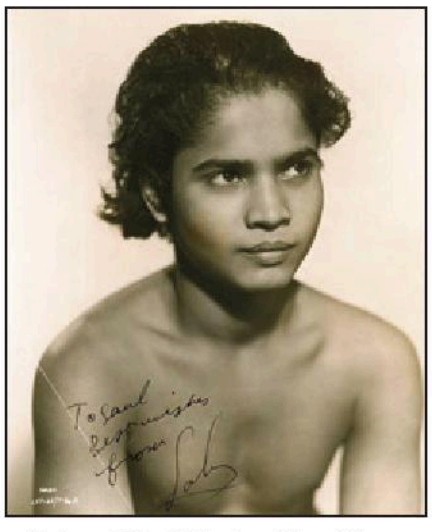
Philomena married Francis Thumboo Chetty, a relative and had five children. Sadly one of the children was born with special needs for whose care she gave up her concert tours abroad…but never her music. She died in March 2000. Sister John Britto [Padmavathy Dorai Chetty], a noted pianist of Good Shepherd Convent, Mysore, was related to her.

M. Venkatesh with the Sinclair family.

Philomena Thumboo Chetty

In 1937, British film-makers Robert J. Flaherty and Zoltan Korda produced a film called *"Elephant Boy"* based on Rudyard Kipling's story *"Toomai of the Elephants"*, in Mysore. The lead role was given to thirteen-year-old Sabu who was working as a mahout in the elephant stables of the Maharaja. His affinity with the animals combined with his athleticism and charm made him a star. The film won an award at the Venice Film Festival. Sabu went to America acting in films as *"Sabu Dastigir"*. Becoming a US citizen, he joined the Air Force and was decorated for his bravery during World War 2. He died short of his 40th birthday in 1963.

The sepia photographs and revived remembrances are both evocative and emotive while sharpening our perception of change. The old stars still scintillate but against a fading background.



Sabu of the "Elephant Boy" fame.

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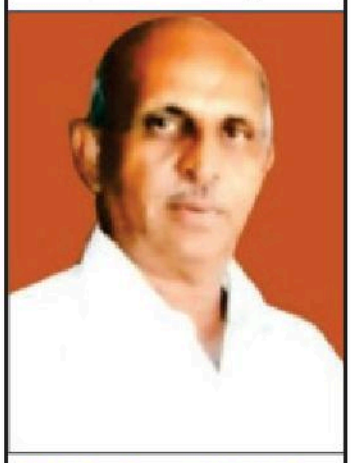

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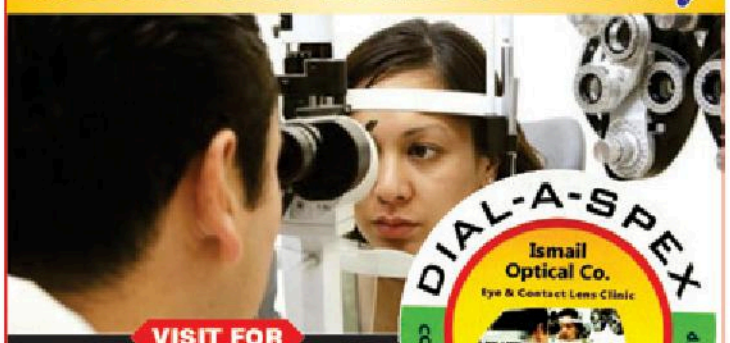

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Endometriosis and Infertility

Endometriosis is the growth of endometrial tissue (cells that normally grow inside the uterus), in a location outside of the uterus. Endometriosis is most commonly found on other organs of the pelvis like ovaries, fallopian tubes, outer surfaces of the uterus or intestines, and on the surface lining of the pelvic cavity. The exact cause of endometriosis has not been identified. Endometriosis is more common in women who are experiencing infertility than in fertile women, but the condition does not fully prevent conception.

There are many theories surrounding the origin of endometriosis. But the most common cause is the one associated with retrograde menstruation. In all women when menses occur, some amount of blood is seen regurgitating through the fallopian tubes back into the pelvic and abdominal cavity. Although many women have been demonstrated to have some amount of retrograde menstruation, only a few develop endometriosis. There is usually clearance of this blood by the immunological system. When there is an alteration of the immune system, the deposits of the blood linger on inside the pelvic cavity.

The most common site where it gets deposited are the ovaries (50%) and the ligaments in the pelvis and behind the uterus. The less common sites are the bladder, rectum fallopian tubes, etc.,

Endometriosis has been reported only in the reproductive ages, which means right after the start of the menstrual cycle until menopause or immediate post-menopausal years. While most cases of endometriosis are diagnosed in women aged around 25-35 years, endometriosis has been reported in girls as young as 11 years of age. Endometriosis is rare in postmenopausal women.

The symptoms of endometriosis may be highly variable from one patient to another. The magnitude of the symptoms may not correlate with the extent of the disease. The common symptoms are pelvic pain and infertility. Pelvic pain usually occurs during or just before menstruation and lessens after menstruation. Some women experience pain during sexual intercourse, bowel movements or urination. Patients can also have bleeding when they pass urine or stools. Endometriosis can be one of the reasons for infertility in otherwise healthy couples.

In vitro fertilization (IVF) procedures are effective in improving fertility for some women with endometriosis. IVF makes it possible to combine sperm and eggs in a laboratory and then place the resulting embryos into the woman's uterus. IVF is one type of assisted reproductive technology that may be an option for women and families affected by infertility related to endometriosis.

In moderate to severe cases, scarring in the pelvis may cause infertility. The fallopian tubes and ovaries may adhere to the lining of the pelvis or to each other, restricting their movement. The scarring and adhesions that takes place with Endometriosis may mean that the ovaries and fallopian tubes are not in the right position, so the transfer of the egg to the fallopian tubes cannot take place. Similarly, Endometriosis can cause damage and/or blockage to the inside of the fallopian tube, impeding the journey of the egg down the fallopian tube to the uterus.

Dr. Devika Gunasheela

Many doctors feel that for a woman who has Endometriosis, the best chances of pregnancy occur during the six to nine months period following treatment with a laparoscopy procedure. Pregnancy rate with test tube baby procedure following a certain protocol of treatment can reach upto 40 – 50%. Childless couples can contact: **Gunasheela Fertility Centre, Kuvempunagar, Mysore: 0821-2343585, Gunasheela Fertility Centre, Basavanagudi, Bangalore Centre: 080 - 46462600 / 080 - 26673585.**

Kavya (Name changed) - who was 23 years had been trying for pregnancy for 3 years. She had regular periods but had severe pain during periods. Ultrasound scan showed large blood fluid cysts which are called as Chocolate Cysts (because of the colour of the old blood that oozes out when it is opened), in both the ovaries. She underwent key-hole procedure where the cyst was drained and the endometriosis was destroyed to the extent possible. The ovaries were brought forward and fixed in front of and close to the uterus. She was then given three doses of GnRH analogues to suppress her periods and in turn the endometriotic process which took about 3 months. This meant that she was without a period for 3 months. After the third month, she was advised to undergo an IVF procedure for which the treatment was started. She produced four eggs which were fertilized by her husband's sperm. Out of this two embryos were formed which was put back into the uterine cavity. The patient got pregnant and delivered a healthy baby!

Advt.

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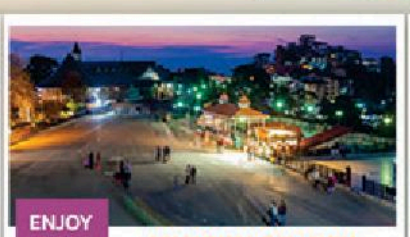

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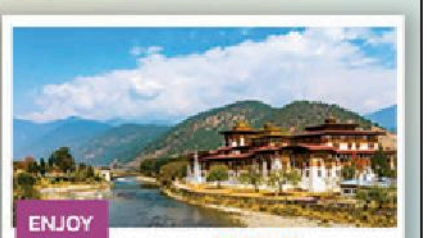

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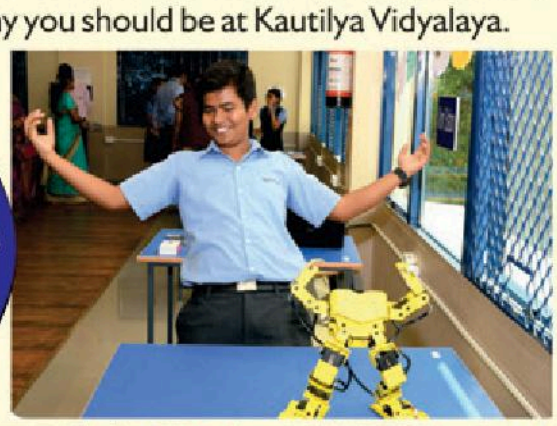

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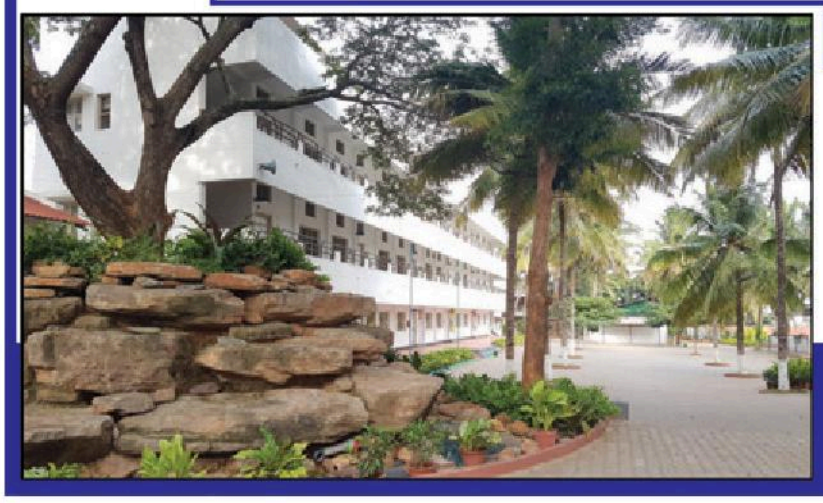

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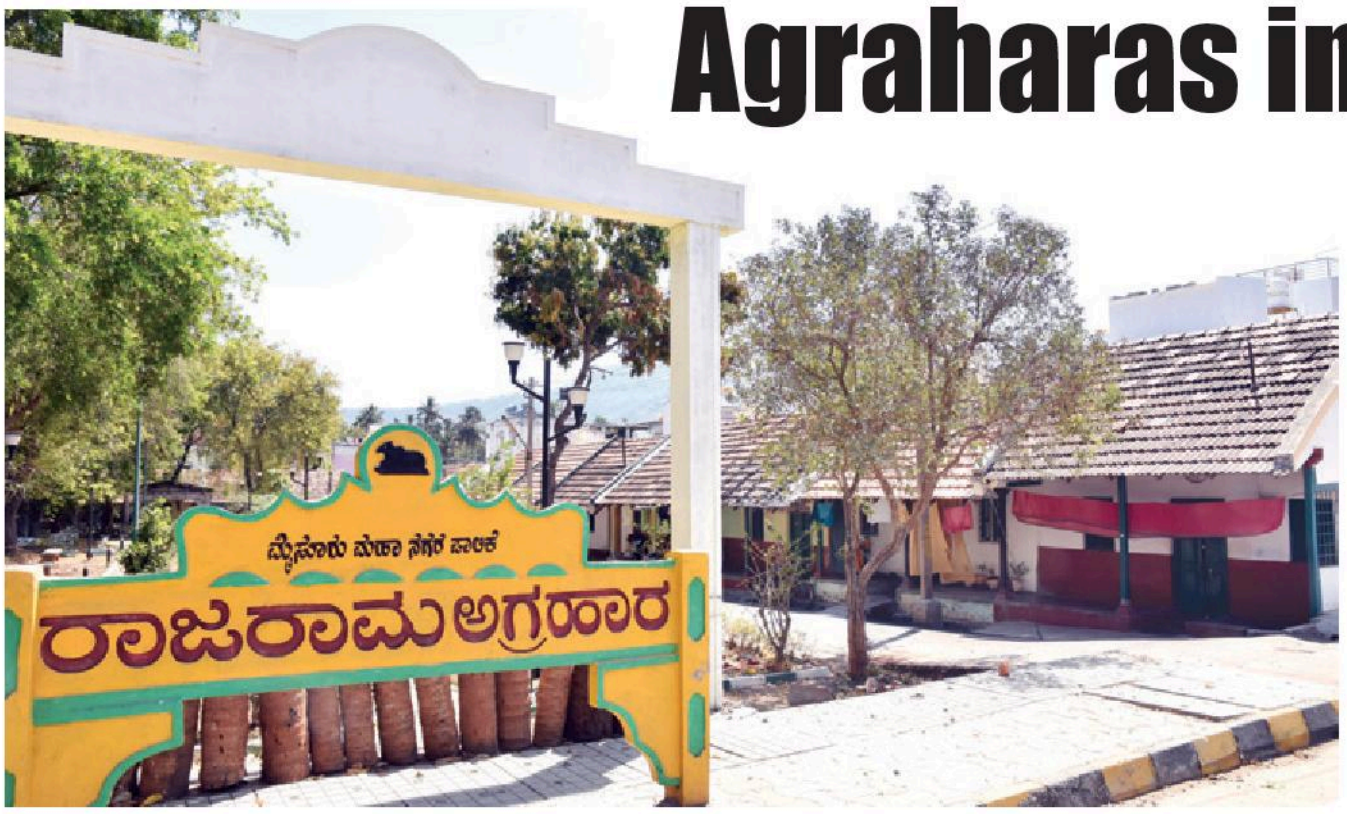
Her Highness... Queens also built Agraharas in Mysore



[Continued from Page - 10]

Some were within the Palace Fort and the rest were outside. Of these, Gollageri, Agasa Keri, Kumbarageri are to be seen even today and I am happy to say I am living in one of these oldest Keris. The rest of the Keris might have been removed as part of the work to clear the congestion of houses within the Fort or while expanding the city forming new Mohallas. It is also possible they were given new names during the expansion process.

Queens' contribution

There are a few inscriptions in the Prasanna Nanjundeshwara Swamy Temple in Santhepete. Three of them reveal interesting details about the development of Mysore during the reign of Krishnaraja Wadiyar III, particularly in respect of new Agraharas. The inscriptions belong to the year 1821, which means 22 years after the commencement of Mummadi's ruling.

The first record reveals that "While Krishnaraja Wadiyar (III) was ruling, his chief queen, **Devajammanni of Lakshmi Vilasa, established an Agrahara in her own hand, by constructing 21 houses to the West of Mysore Fort,** on the right side of the royal stables, and also got constructed the Prasanna Nanjundeshwara Swamy Temple." From this inscription, we come to know that the royal stables were on the right side of the present Prasanna Nanjundeshwara Swamy Temple which is now surrounded by Santhepete shops, built later.

The second one says that another of his queens, **Lingajammanni of Krishna Vilasa, established an Agrahara, named after herself as Lingamba Agrahara, containing 20 houses to the West of the fort** and left of the royal stables, opposite Lakshmi Vilasa Agrahara, established by her co-wife. She also got built the Parakala Mutt and a Mantapa therein, in the same place, and consecrated the image of Hayagriva.

From this record, we come to know that the present Krishna Vilasa Agrahara was called 'Lingamba Agrahara' when it was established. Of course, Krishna Vilasa is also an appendage to the name of the same queen. Krishna Vilasa was a separate 'Vilasa', sections meant for the queens of Mummadi. The third identical epigraph in the same place records the establishment of an **Agrahara in her name by queen Cheluvajammanni of Rama Vilasa, who also got built the Ahobala Mutt and a Mantapa in which God Lakshminarasimha was consecrated.**

Interestingly, these three Agraharas — **Lakshmi Vilasa Agrahara, Krishna Vilasa Agrahara and Rama Vilasa Agrahara — constructed by the three queens of the Mummadi continue to bear their names.** So also the Parakala Mutt and Ahobala Mutt, established during the same year, continue to serve the devotees. From these inscriptions, we can also conclude that the area where the royal stables stood became a part of the Santhepete in the later years. Probably, with the shifting of the stables from this place to the area beside the Daly Avenue *(Thandi Sadak)*, which is now within the Zoo jurisdiction, during the period of Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar, this area became Santhepete.

The Rama Vilasa Agrahara commences after the present D. Banumaiah's house, where two boundary stones stand. It ends at the intersection of Narayana Sastry Road. At the right side edge of Sadvidya School compound stood a similar **'Vamana Mudre' boundary stone, which was pulled down by the Mysuru City Corporation a few years ago,** as I have already mentioned in one of my earlier articles published in this daily.

The Vamana Mudre stones at the two ends indicated the length of Rama Vilasa Road laid out by queen Rama Vilasa. These inscriptions in Prasanna Nanjundeshwara Swamy Temple significantly reveal the role played by the queens too in the development of Mysore and the extent to which Mysore had grown during Mummadi.

Small town within the Fort

Even during Krishnaraja Wadiyar III, his city was a small place, the Fort enclosing an area of 2,56,520 sq.yds, with many old narrow and winding streets crowded with small houses and buildings of various sorts. The Palace was itself thickly surrounded by private houses and narrow streets.

Cholera and plague were common diseases taking a heavy toll each time. The epidemic was so devastating from 1818 onwards Arthur Cole, then British Resident of Mysore, writes in a letter on March 26 of 1832: "The population of Mysore was 1,00,000, we lost at the rate of 500 people daily, for three weeks, after which the disease gradually declined for that year, but it has returned every year since the beginning of the hot season." By 1840, the population of the town had fallen to as low as 52,277.

The small houses in the Agraharas around the Palace were mainly built with mud and bamboo and were located in congested narrow lanes. With plague spreading, there arose the need to decongest and improve sanitation within the Fort, which was taken up in 1872-73. The Maharaja began to build Agraharas and donate the houses to the Brahmins who mostly lived within the Fort.

In fact, we can say that **Mummadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar and his queens began the process of decongesting the small town and expanding it outside by constructing new Agraharas.** The gifting of the houses to Vedic scholars and others also accommodated the families which moved from Srirangapatna to Mysore seeking royal patronage. It also contributed for the further increase in the population of the city in later years.

Thanks to the contribution of Mummadi and his queens, who in a way laid the foundation stone for a planned city as early as in 1821, the small town of Mysore saw further development during the reign of succeeding Maharajas.

Prasanna Nanjundeshwara Swamy Temple in Santhepete.

The majestic Parakala Mutt.

Bun Uncle on night rounds

[Continued from Page - 12]

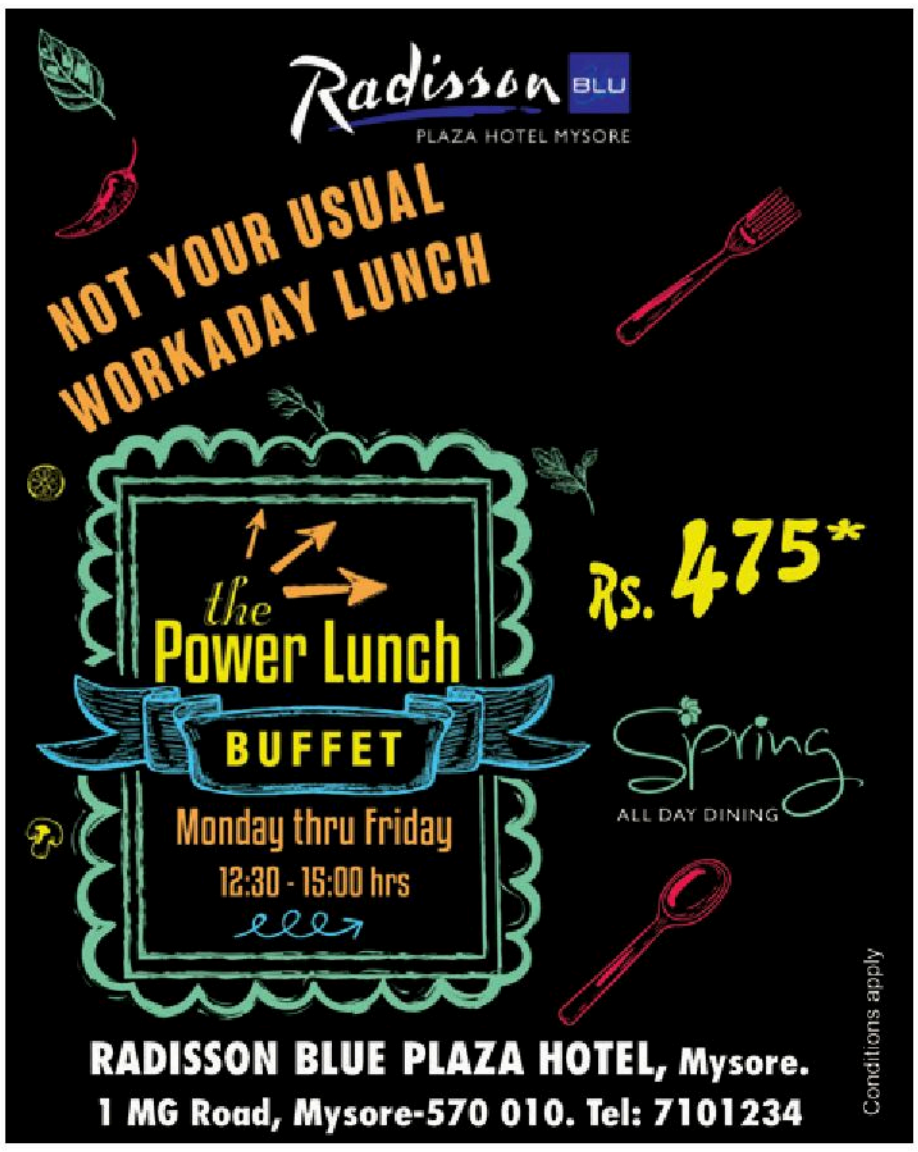
Why did he choose to do this, that too at odd hours? "It needed little investment and I used to sell for a few hours in the night when I was working. But later decided to take this up full-time and as they aren't many coffee, tea shops operating during the night, thought I could do well and many people continue to be my regular customers, maybe because of the taste that hasn't changed. I started selling at Re. 1 per cup and sold around 250 to 300 cups initially. Today I sell at Rs. 5 per cup and sell almost 1,000 cups," he says

"Yes, I do come across a few unscrupulous elements at times but I have the goodwill of the public and the Police so I am not worried," Manjunath adds. Many times he gets calls from people at a funeral saying they need 50 to 100 cups of tea or coffee to sustain them till the morning.

"I keep a tray full of tea and coffee cups on a stool, so there is no hassle of serving individually. People pay and pick up the cups. Coolies and labourers who can't afford Rs.5 ask for a lesser quantity for Rs. 2 and I oblige. Every night I use around 40 litres of milk. Now that I am slightly better off, I carry my wares on a scooter," he explains.

Manjunath's son Darshan, for whom he actually started this business, is a mechanical engineer from Vidya Vikas College and is now working with a well-known MNC. Darshan is proud of his father's grit and grateful too. "He has put in so many efforts for me and I will live up to his expectations," he says.

"My son tells me to stop working now that things have eased up, but I like doing what I do and my customers don't want me to stop," says 55-year-old Manjunath as he skilfully mixes the steaming frothy coffee.



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Striking the right chord

City artiste rubs shoulders with music greats

Technology has cast a spell over everything under the sun and beyond. Music is no exception. From monophony to polyphony, it has spread its wings wider with intervention of technology. Meet Mysuru's **M.G. Ravishankar,** who was a guitar student before the advent of mobile phones, a Recording Artiste when Madras was the only Centre for cinemas of South Indian languages and now, a Guitar Teacher in an era where online learning, music apps and enormous reality shows have taken over the Gurukul methodology. Highly regarded in the orchestra circles and having accompanied on guitar for thousands of shows, Ravishankar has worked as a re-recording artiste for over 150 films in Telugu, a few Kannada films and also as a chord artiste at Mysuru Akashvani.

Star of Mysore ***caught up with the veteran guitarist who traces his journey from orchestras to recording studios, teaching practices and more.*** **EXCERPTS:**

By B.N. Ramya

Star of Mysore (SOM): What fancied you towards guitar?

M.G. Ravishankar (MGR): Hindi heroes playing guitar drew my attention. After having completed my schooling from K.R. Primary School and Sarada Vilas High School, I joined D. Pharma at JSS College during 1971-72. Then, D. Pharma exams were held in October and results were during November end. So, for next year's admissions, we had to wait till April. During that gap, I joined guitar classes under Mandolin Rathan. That is when life changed and I was hooked to the string instrument.

SOM: Tell us about Mandolin Rathan?

MGR: He (Rathan Sir) was the one to introduce Mandolin to Mysuru. But he was also an expert in guitar, flute, mouth-organ and keyboard. Not only did he play these instruments, he also taught them. Rathan never used to let us go without proper practice. Every day for about three-and-a-half years, from 10 am to 2 pm, I used to attend guitar classes and practice rigorously. I became well-versed with Rhythm Guitar. After some time, he had to move to Bengaluru but we met often. He used to take me to weddings where we performed together. *'Cheluveya andada mogake…'* from the movie 'Devara Gudi' was the first song I played for orchestra.

SOM: Your journey as an Orchestra artiste?

MGR: 'Janakiram and his Orchestra' was the first orchestra I worked with and 'Mohan-Kumar Orchestra' and 'George and his Orchestra' were others. I got a chance to work with singers P.B. Sreenivas, Kasturi Shankar, B.K. Sumitra and Prema Rajkumar, actors Dr. Rajkumar and Dr. Vishnuvardhan and drummer Babu Sukumar. I have also played for Ashok-Charan Orchestra in Mangaluru. But it was Kumar of Mohan-Kumar Orchestra who fine-tuned me. He was a mandolin player and had good knowledge of guitar too.

SOM: Who did you emulate?

MGR: I have been around music greats of yesteryears and learnt by observing them. I have learnt from chords, bass and lead guitarists as well. A special mention can be made of Sadananda at Prasad Studio in Madras who played guitar as if he was talking to the instrument and Sebi Dennis, the guitarist at the famous Bollywood Music Director duo Laxmikant-Pyarelal.

Sebi Denis, after he stopped working for Laxmikant-Pyarelal, was employed by Srikantadatta Narasimharaja Wadiyar for the Band that performed at the then Gun House Imperial Restaurant. The Band performed every night and in the morning, practiced at a room on 100 ft. Road. I used to sit outside the room and listen. Gradually I was able to connect with Sebi.

SOM: What took you to Madras?

MGR: Once when I was at guitar class, one Bhupal, a close friend of Music Director Ilayaraja, had come from Madras to meet Mandolin Rathan. Bhupal, who was Rathan's student, was a Mysurean but had moved to Chennai. He saw me practice and taught me some techniques and also invited me to Madras.

I went to Madras during 1981-82 when I wanted to buy a foreign-made amplifier for my electric guitar. I met Bhupal there and he showed Prasad Studios where Ilayaraja was recording for Tamil movie 'Rama Lakshmana.' That was the first recording I got to see. His was a very high standard studio of those days which we would hardly think of even entering into.

Bhupal introduced me to Ilayaraja and Ilayaraja offered me a special coffee. That's something precious for me. He said: "Learn well and come, I'll arrange something for you." It was inspiring enough for me to work hard. Next, I was taken to Vijaya Gardens Studio where Shankar-Ganesh were recording. There used to be five guitars and I used to request for a guitar. Bhupal told Shankar-Ganesh to give me a chance. Shankar gave a strange look at first. Then seeing my interest, I was given a chance to record with them, although much later.

When in orchestra, we used to listen to a song and perform it on stage. We knew only so much but once I went to Madras, I realised music is not just that. Nobody taught us in Studios. I knew basics and I used to observe and learn in the morning and practice at Bhupal's house late at night. Bhupal was working as a Supervisor at Hindustan Teleprinters. Also there are times when he taught me from 10.45 pm to 4.30 am after his hectic schedules.

[To be continued tomorrow]

SOM: What style do you teach and how different is it from others?

MGR: I teach Guitar in Spanish, Jazz, Western Classical and Indian Classical. Most teachers set a syllabus, teach accordingly and their goal is to see their students pass in exams. But I teach according to the student's interest. If one comes to me asking for Karnatak, I teach them that and alongside, I teach its difference with Western music and vice-versa. That way, their learning is complete. I have grown up in a Gurukul environment and follow that method even today.

M.G. Ravishankar *(extreme right),* ***along with Bhupal*** *(2nd from right)* ***and other artistes, during a programme in Mysuru on Sept.23, 1985. [Bhupal has worked for many film songs including 'Jo Jo Laali...', 'Thaja Thaja Kadlekai...' and 'Mysuru Dasara Yeshtondu Sundara...']***

EVENTS TODAY (FEB. 16)

India Skill Pedia Foundation, Ark Lines ECO Habitat Solutions, Karnataka State Open University (KSOU) and Arya Samaj, Mysuru: Inauguration of Skill Development Mysuru Centre, Patanjali Yoga Centre for Excellence, Maharshi Dayanand Vedic Research Foundation, Patanjali Global Wellness Centre and Maharshi Dayanand Yoga Sports and Adventure Centre, Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat inaugurates, Addl. Chief Secretary - Governor's Secretariat and Department of Tourism and Civil Aviation Department Dr. K. Jayakumar, KSOU VC Dr. Vidyashankar, Patanjali Yog Preeth-Haridwar Kendriya Prabhari Dr. Jaideep Arya and Delhi Arya Pratinidhi Sabha Secretary Vinay Arya guests of honour, KSOU Convocation Hall, Hunsur Road, **10.30 am.**

Devan Foundation Charitable Trust, Mysuru and Phoenix International Academy: Annual Day celebrations, Phoenix International School, KRS Road, next to Mandovi Motors, **10 am to 2 pm.**

Baba Saheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Foundation, J.P. Nagar: Inauguration of new building, MP V. Sreenivasa Prasad inaugurates, MLA S.A. Ramdas presides, former MLA M.K. Somashekar, former Karnataka Exhibition Authority Chairman B. Siddaraju, former Mayor B.L. Bhyrappa, Corporators Shanthamma M. Vadivelu and Sharadamma Eshwar chief guests, Baba Saheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Foundation premises, J.P. Nagar, **11 am.**

Haridasa Sangeetha Sahityotsava Samiti: Madhwa-Purandara Namana - Haridasa Bhakti Sangeetotsava, Bhajans by Bhajana Mandali, **4 pm;** Talk on 'Dasarendare Purandaradasaraiah' by Pt. Aniruddhacharya, Mysuru, **5 pm;** 'Dasa-Gana-Manjari' by Vid. Anantharaja Mistri of Kalaburagi, Vid. Keerthan Holla of Mangaluru and Vidu. Aishwarya Rangarajan of Bengaluru, Sarada Vilas Centenary Hall, Krishnamurthypuram, **6 pm to 8.30 pm.**

Jagadguru Sri Veerasimhasana Mahasamsthana Mutt, Suttur Srikshetra, Jagadguru Sri Shivarathreeshwara Mahavidyapeetha, Mysuru, Department of Archaeology, Museums and Heritage, Mysuru and Department of History, JSS Women's College, Saraswathipuram: Valedictory of Sri Jayachamaraja Wadiyar's birth centenary celebrations, , Suttur Seer Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Swamiji graces the occasion, MLA L. Nagendra presides, Kannada and Culture Minister C.T. Ravi delivers valedictory address, felicitation to *Padma Shri* awardee editor couple of India's only Sanskrit Daily 'Sudharma' K.V. Sampath Kumar and Vidu. K.S. Jayalakshmi; Dy. Mayor C. Sridhar, Executive Secretary Dr. C.G. Betsurmath, Department ofArchaeology, Museums and Heritage Commissioner T. Venkatesh and Department of Archaeology, Museums and Heritage Dy. Director (Heritage) Nirmala Mathapati chief guests, Navajyothi auditorium, JSS Women's College, Saraswathipuram, **4.30 pm.**

Viveka Spandana - Sri Ramakrishna Ashrama, Mysuru: Divyatrayara Jathra Mahotsava - 2020, talk on 'Swami Vivekanandaru kanda Bharata' by Nityananda Vivekavamshi, President, Viveka Shikshana Vahini, Mandya, Swami Vivekananda Circle, Vivekanandanagar, **5 pm.**

Nadavidyalaya Academy of Music and Dance: 'Nada Vidwat Vriddhi' (brainchild of Guru Vidu. Mithra Naveen and Vid. M.S. Naveen) along with Nadopasana, Nrityopasana and Nadanupurarchanam monthly concerts, accompanied by Guru Vidu. Mithra Naveen - natuvanga, Guru Vid. M.S. Naveen - vocal, Vid. Dasappa - mridanga and Vid. M.R. Rajesh - flute, Ramachandra Bhat - compering; Dr. Poornima Krishnamurthy, Director, Prajna Kuteera Ayurveda Centre and Managing Trustee, Raaga Music Academy and Dr. Kumudini Achchi of PG Department of Social Work, JSS College, Mysuru and Secretary, Bharatita Nrityakala Parishat, guests of honour, Mysore Vasudevacharya Bhavan, Sri Nadabrahma Sangeetha Sabha, JLB Road, **6 pm.**

Sri Ramakrishna Ashrama: Swami Muktidanandaji speaks on 'Bhagavad Gita and Karma Yoga,' Ashrama premises, Yadavagiri, **6 pm.**

Sadhana Mandira, Mysuru: Special series of talks in English on 'Shivaparadha - Kshamapana - Stotram' by Swami Hamsananda, Ramana Jnana Kendra, Adichunchanagiri Road, Kuvempunagar, **6.30 pm to 8 pm.**

Natana School of Theatre Arts: Staging of play 'Sita Rama Katha, School premises, Ramakrishnanagar, **6.30 pm.**

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Famous Alumni of a Century-Old School

By C.P. Belliappa

Group photograph of students and staff of St. Joseph's Convent in Madikeri taken in 1911.

Educational institutions were first started in Kodagu after the British takeover in 1834. People took to education most enthusiastically. In 1909, St. Joseph's Convent was founded by Catholic nuns in Madikeri. It was primarily for girls, but boys were allowed till 7th standard. I recently came across a remarkable group photograph taken in 1911, of the students at the time, along with the European nuns who ran the school. The school catered to both boarders and day-scholars.

This school offered better quality education to children of those locals who aspired to see their children well prepared to take advantage of lucrative jobs and career opportunities under the colonial dispensation. This school saw generations of students, especially women, pursue higher education and excel at a time when women were not much involved outside the traditional family responsibilities.

One family in this frame, frozen in time, has members who went on to become famous during the 1930s to 1950s. They are the seven daughters and one son of the first lawyer from Kodagu — Codanda D. Poovaiah. After school, six of his daughters pursued higher education outside Kodagu. The sisters excelled in various fields and soon came to be known as the 'Poovaiah Sisters of Coorg.' One of them, Rohini, was the first lady from Kodagu to acquire a degree. She later became the Principal of Crosswaithe College, a well-known institution in Allahabad. She was familiar with the Nehru family and had a brief role in the education of a young Indira Gandhi. She was awarded the *Padma Shri* in 1973. Another sister, Ashlesha, was one of the first lady doctors from Kodagu. Yet another sister, Swati, did her Nursing degree and later went on a scholarship to Columbia University in 1948 for further studies.

The three younger sisters — Sita, Chitra and Lata — became renowned Kathak dancers and were much sought-after not only for their performances all over India, but also to direct dances in Hindi movies. All sisters took part in the freedom movement. Chitra and Lata defied prohibitory orders during the 'Quit India' movement. They were jailed for 2 weeks. Sita went on to earn a Ph.D in Arts from Bombay University and became the first Kodava lady to get a Doctorate degree. My father, C.M. Poonacha, was a freedom fighter and knew the family well. I had the privilege of being invited to their home on Malabar Hill in Bombay in 1968. Except for Ashlesha, all the sisters were spinsters.

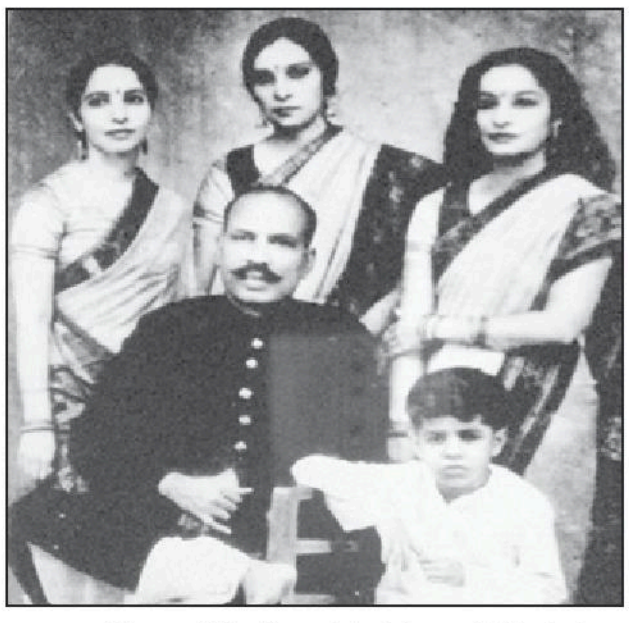
On a personal note, my wife's grandmother is one of the little girls sitting in the front row. She later married Pemmanda K. Monnappa who had the unique distinction of being the Inspector General of Police (IGP) in three Southern States. He was the Police Chief who headed the Government action in quelling the Razakars revolt in Hyderabad. He was the first IGP (equivalent to DGP now), of the newly formed Karnataka State in 1956.

My sister's future father-in-law is one of the little boys sitting in the front row. Interestingly, his future mother-in-law is also in the same frame! This iconic, over a century-old photograph, has many stories to tell.

Over the years several girls who had their early education in this school went on the achieve in various fields. Konganda Accamma, who passed out of this school in the 1920s, joined Lady Hardinge Medical College in New Delhi. She was one of the first Kodava women to earn a MBBS degree. She headed the Vanivilas Women and Children's Hospital for several years.

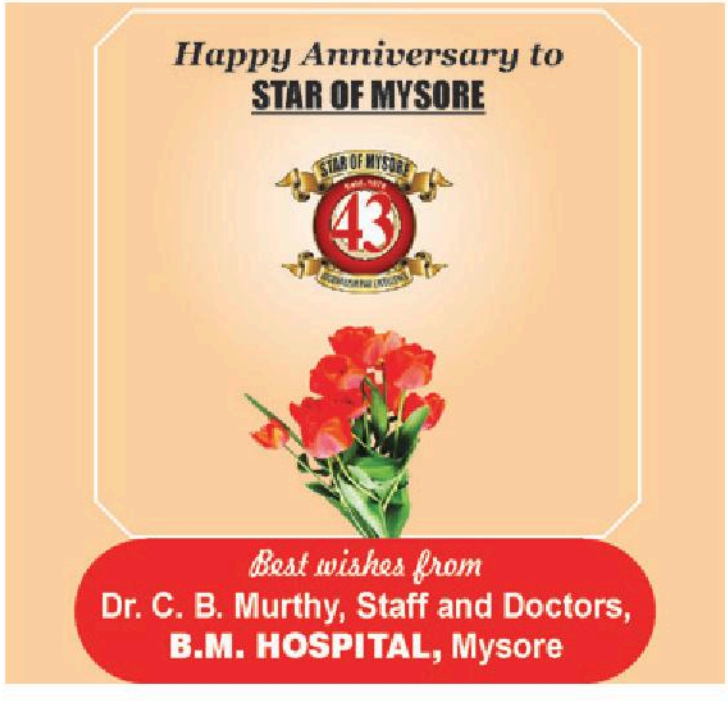
One of the most distinguished alumna of this school is C.B. Muthamma, who was the first woman to qualify for the Indian Foreign Service in 1949. She also has the distinction of being the first lady Ambassador from the IFS cadre. Muthamma had to face gender discrimination while in service. She fought against the Government and went to the Supreme Court in 1979. The Apex Court passed a judgement in her favour which paved the way for other women civil servants from being discriminated against. She authored a book titled '*Slain by the System*' in 2003. Muthamma's classmate was Jajie Mandanna, who was an MLC and a well-known consumer activist. I am told they fiercely fought for the top rank in their class!

St. Joseph's is now a co-ed school and continues to provide quality education ■



Three of the Poovaiah sisters with their dance guru Jailal. Picture right shows Chonira B Muthamma, first lady IFS Officer.

About the author: *C. P. Belliappa, born in 1946, is a Chemical Engineer. He is currently settled in Coorg. He is known for his writings on issues pertaining to Coorg. Four of his books — Tale of A Tiger's Tail & other Yarns from Coorg, Nuggets from Coorg History, Victoria Gowramma: The Lost Princess of Coorg, and Tongue of the Slip, have been published by Rupa Publications. He currently serves as President, Coorg Institute of Technology, Ponnampet, South Kodagu.*



EVENTS TOMORROW (FEB. 17)

Marimallappa PU College, Mysuru: Releasing of 'Chinthana-2020' annual magazine, Marimallappa's Educational Institutions Hon. Secretary Prof. K.N. Panchaksharaswamy presides, journalist Mahadevaswamy Devalapura releases the magazine, Principal B.R. Neelakanta, Vice-Principal Vijaya and Academic Officer Mangala Muddumadappa will be present, Room No.22, College premises, **12.30 pm.**

Viveka Spandana - Sri Ramakrishna Ashrama, Mysuru: Divyatrayara Jathra Mahotsava - 2020, talk on 'Sri Sharadadevi Anukaraniya Adarsha' by Swami Yukteshanandaji, Subbarao Pak, Nivedita Nagar, **5 pm.**

Nrityagiri: 'Guru-Shishya Nrityollasa,' a dance recital by Guru-Shishya duo Vidushi Dr. Kripa Phadke, Director, Nrityagiri Academy and her disciple, Vidushi Suraksha Dixit, accompanied by Vidu. Roopashree Madhusudan - natuvanga, Vidu. Rajeshwari Pandit - vocal, Vid. P. Janardhan Rao - mridanga and Vid. Pradeshacharya - violin, Veene Seshanna Bhavan, Ganabharathi, **6.15 pm.**

Government of India
Department of Atomic Energy
Bhabha Atomic Research Centre
Civil section

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Telephone : 0821-2406408 Fax : 0821-240 3064

NOTICE INVITING e- TENDER

Tender No.: BARC/MYS/PROJECT/CIVIL/11/2019-20

Superintending Engineer, BARC, Mysuru, invites for & on behalf of President of India a sealed item rate tenders from experienced Contractor with sound financial & technical capacity for following work(s):

Sl. No.	Description	Details
1	Name of the Work	Construction of zero area building (coating tower between building 9A & 9B at RMP Plant site, Mysuru
2	Estimated Cost	Rs 18.50 Lakhs (Rupees Eighteen lakhs and fifty thousand only)
3	Completion Period	06 (Six) months
4	Earnest Money Deposit	Rs.37,000/- (Rupees Thirty-seven thousand only)
5	Sale of Tender Documents	From 17.02.2020 (10:00 Hrs.) to 06.03.2020 (17.00 Hrs.)
6	Email and Phone Number	pknagar@barc.gov.in nvenkat@barc.gov.in 0821-2406664/6401/6418

Interested tenderers may please refer detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details which can be downloaded from web site www.tenderwizard.com/dae and www.barc.gov.in

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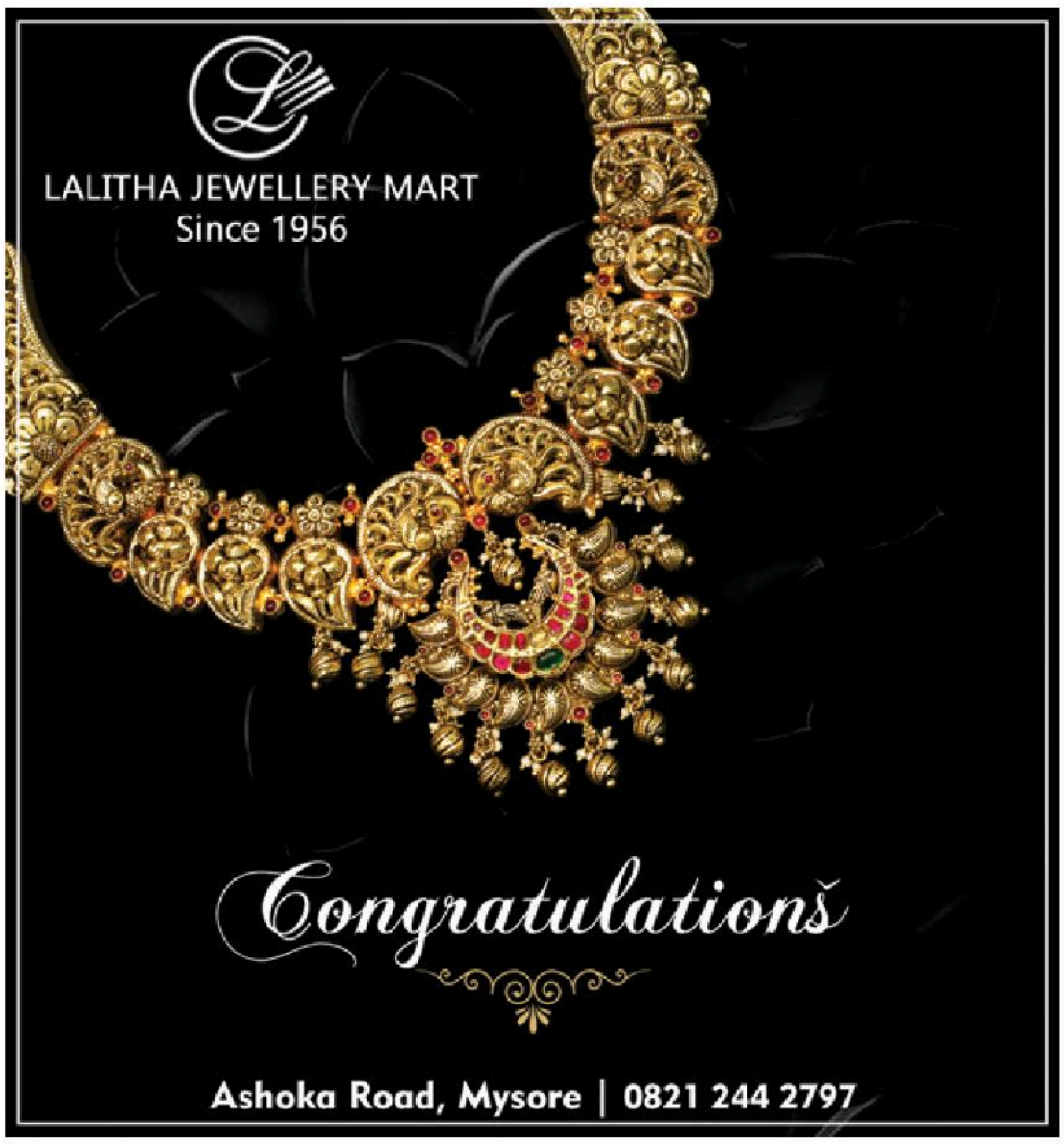

Mushrooming

...at your very own doorstep

By V. Shourabh

The world of fungi is filled with many magnificent specimens and numerous species. The varieties of fungi are something to behold. It has its own nutrient profile and biologically distinct from plant and animal-derived foods like fruits, vegetables, grains, dairy, protein, meat, fish, poultry, legumes, nuts and seeds.

Mushrooms are commonly used in a culinary and medicinal context and their earthy flavour and texture makes them a much used substitute for meat. Earlier, mushrooms were grown only in some specific areas or used only during some seasons. But now due to scientific research, mushrooms can be grown in all seasons and places.

The Mushroom Lab of Mysuru District Horticulture Department, adjacent to Kukkarahalli Lake, promotes the growth of mushroom and also imparts education to farmers and students on how to grow mushrooms in a simple and an efficient way. The Lab produces mushroom seeds that are sold to customers. It also sells ready-to-fruit mushroom bags and follows a simple process to grow mushroom throughout the year.

First, the dry paddy grass is taken and cut into a size of 2 to 3 inches. Next, the grass is immersed in water for about 8 to 10 hours. Later, the grass is boiled in water for about 30 minutes. The grass is left to dry on a steel filter. A 12x18 inch polythene bag is chosen and small holes are made. Next, the bag is filled with the same dried grass upto four inch in height.

Half-fist mushroom seeds are then sprinkled inside and the process of adding grass and seeds is repeated till the bag is 75 percent full. Then a knot is tied and the date is mentioned outside the bag with a marker pen. The bag is then kept in a clean and cool place for 21 days in a dark room. After 21 days, the bags are cut open and the grass bundles are taken out. Now, the mushroom starts to sprout and generally gets a white cover. The Lab produces seeds of milky button mushrooms and oyster mushrooms. Oyster mushrooms can be both pink and white.

Speaking to *Star of Mysore*, Shashikala, Assistant Director of Horticulture Department, said, "We offer training and conduct workshops for farmers, enthusiasts and students on how to grow mushrooms in a convenient as well as an efficient way. We organise one-day training for about five times a year. Each batch has a maximum of 50 members."

During the training, trainers teach cultivation process. Participants can buy seeds from the Department and start their own mushroom cultivation. Also, the Department offers one-week training, which is conducted 5 times a year and every batch has a maximum of 10 members, she explained.

The admission fee for reserved category is Rs. 1,500 and Rs. 2,500 for general category. One kg seeds costs Rs. 60 and one bag of seeds costs Rs.20. One bag of seeds can produce about 500 grams of mushroom.

There is no particular marketing strategy for any crop and is the same for mushrooms. People who grow mushrooms like this will have to explore local markets and sell mushrooms there. The Department encourages participants in training workshops to contact local markets, shops, hotels, apartments and associations.

Selling it in malls or other big industries is not practical as it requires continuous production. By understanding the demands of local market and contacting local people and customers, one can sell mushrooms. Mushroom is a lip-smacking fleshy, spore-bearing fruiting body of a fungus which is a favourite dish not just among vegetarians but also non-vegetarians. This super-food is a source of powerful nutrient that is a smart and healthy addition to one's platter. It has a rich source of Vitamin B, riboflavin, selenium, copper, potassium, complex carbohydrates and fibers.

Edible mushrooms have rich anti-oxidant and protects the body from chronic diseases and strengthens immune system. With so many healthy properties, mushroom is a vital ingredient of a healthy diet. And with such an efficient and a convenient method, and scientific reasoning, mushrooms can now be grown with ease.

Mysuru's own Ekta Kapoor forays into hotel biz now

A rebel who set out to do something different in a field she had no experience about, this Mysuru girl dropped out of her Mechanical Engineering course to try something different.

That's how the journey of **Shruti Naidu,** the well-known face of television today, started two decades ago. One of the top-ranking directors, she is known as the Ekta Kapoor of Kannada television and has directed popular serials like *'Brahmagantu'*, *'Shrirasthu Shubhamasthu'*, *'Punarvivaha'*, *'Mahanadhi'*, *'Mahadevi'* and also produced many serials under the banner Shruti Naidu Productions.

Having set foot on entertainment industry, she first assisted TV commercials producer M.G. Satya which opened an avenue for her in television industry. It was ETV which gave her a break, asking her to host a cookery show, which she took up as a challenge though she hadn't cooked anything at home. From being just an anchor, she went on to design the sets, invited people from different walks of life to the show and direct the show too.

Shruti had started acting by then and got a lot of accolades for her role in the serial *'Preethi illada mele'*, starring as Anant Nag's wife. A lot of acting offers came her way but she was looking at donning the Director's hat.

A chance to direct a part of a scene in one of the serials opened up the doors for her directorial venture. Shruti is also credited with bringing film stars on to the small screen with her first directorial serial *'Chi Sou Savitri'*. From then it has been stringing successes. She recently turned producer too with the Jaggesh-starrer film *'Premier Padmini'* which received huge appreciation.

After seven years of directing serials, Shruti has no qualms of accepting that serials go on forever. Yes, initially I thought viewers had no choice but to watch what we give. But I have realised this is what they want to see. There are so many negative comments about never-ending serials. But do you realise that these very people actually don't stop seeing them. They loathe, criticise, jab but still watch. As long as we have the TRPs going, we will continue to add on to the story. Yes, sometimes we may change the flow a bit based on viewers' reaction.

Shruti is always on the lookout for starting something new and she feels getting back to her Geetha Road days in Mysuru is what it's going to be.

A foodie herself, she is setting up a restaurant called 'Mysore Mirchi' on Jayalakshmi Vilas Road near Ramaswamy Circle. The hotel will serve authentic veg and non-veg dishes of South India. The restaurant is scheduled to be opened on Feb.18 by 'Challenging Star' Darshan and MLC Sandesh Nagaraj, who is also a well-known film producer from Mysuru.

Knowing her penchant for adding style to whatever she does, the new restaurant promises to be different in what it has to offer and how it will. **—NS**

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Mysore Trumpetvine

An Absolute Show Stopper

Vines in common parlance are the climbing plants. They are the essential ingredients of any garden and best suited for open walls, balconies and often as curtains for display. There are innumerable varieties of ornamental vines to choose from among the foliage and flowering types. However, the flowering vines are the most elegant to decorate fences, pergolas, trellises, arbours and arches. Now the question arises as to which one is the most elegant of all?

A great number of plant growers around the world have chosen 'Mysore Trumpetvine' as the most beautiful vine in the world. It has been awarded not only the prestigious 'Royal Horticultural Society Award of Garden Merit' long ago but also acclaimed in the book '*Vines of the World*' as the prettiest flowering vine in the world. It is highly admired for its unique type of pendulous flowers which hang on thin, almost hair-like threads in spectacular long hanging chains in the form of elegant chandeliers to create a stunning display.

It is known as '*Kamanabillu balli*' in Kannada and by other names in different countries of the world: Indian Clock Vine, Clock Vine, Brick & Butter Vine, Lady's Slipper Vine, Dolls' Shoes (due to the flower shape and large size). Some gardeners have given it the nickname of the Rhubarb & Custard Vine because of its colours. The scientific name is Thunbergia mysorensis (Acanthacea family). The generic name commemorates the Swedish botanist Carl Peter Thunberg, one of Carl Linnaeus's pupils and a prolific collector of Asian plants.

The species epithet is a reference to the city of Mysore, its birth place(?!). It is an amazing vine from Southern India where it climbs through trees in tropical montane forests. It has become naturalised in Mediterranean climates and elsewhere. It is cultivated as a popular ornamental vine all over the world in tropical and sub-tropical gardens, conservatories and greenhouses. I have seen them growing in frost-free temperate climates in USA such as coastal Southern California.

DESCRIPTION

A woody-stemmed evergreen plant, often reaches 20 ft. The stems are supposed to twine clock-wise in due course of time to create an ornamental effect similar to Wisteria floribunda. Leaves are densely covered on the stems, oppositely arranged, ovate lanceolate

(lancelike), glossy plastic like dark green and 5-6 inches long. They are scabrid, coarsely nerved and dentate with an acute to acuminate apex and a truncate or hastate base. The inflorescence is a pendulous raceme with two lipped tubular flowers with an obscure calyx. They are bilaterally symmetrical, consisting of five fused petals, red calyces and a floral tube with a long gaping mouth (appx. 3 inch) which is yellow along edges and down the throat with red coloured reflexed petals. Filaments ciliate, anthers spurred: Fruit a Capsule 3 cm long.

BLOOM TIME

The vine blooms in the cold season (peak flowering season) follows up to spring. Nevertheless, the flowering is unpredictable as the flowers can be present year-round under favourable conditions (mild climates).

Scarlet Clock Vine (Thunbergia coccinea), a close cousin of T. mysorensisis also cultivated in India. It owes its origin to North Eastern India. The vine can be easily distinguished by the shape and colour of flowers, as well as leaves structure.

USEFUL TIPS

- An ideal landscape flowering vine that can be grown on ground or containers.
- Most suitable to cover and decorate garden fences, trellises, arbours and arches. Needs a strong structure to train up. In my view it is better to avoid planting on fences, as the flowers do not show off well.
- It is fantastic when trained over a high pergola where the pendant flowers can dip down to be viewed from below. It is truly a magnificent spectacle with innumerable floral bunches hanging like a drapery, providing sheer delight.
- A must have for farm houses and big gardens. It is also recommended for creating shade.
- **Sunlight:** Full sun to light shade.
- **Temperature:** It requires a winter minimum of 12 degrees Celsius for blooming.
- **Soil:** Moderately fertile humus soil with a mix of sand; should be well-drained.
- **Pruning:** Tip pinching during formative years results in bushiness. Also requires regular pruning (i) to keep under control to prevent unruly growth / haphazard branching (ii) to promote more blooms. Spring is the best time for thinning the crowded stems.

PROPAGATION

- With some exception, the vine is shy of seeding when under cultivation. Need to multiply by layering.
- The flowers attract many birds especially humming birds and bees because of abundant nectar present there in, a source of food. In its nativity, Thunbergia Mysorensis is pollinated by sunbirds.

WHERE TO SEE

Curzon Park entrance (front office) and big home gardens. There is no doubt that Thunbergia mysorensis with its dazzling floral display is an absolute show stopper, no matter where it is grown.

Text & photographs by
Dr. Mahadeswara Swamy
Scientist
Mob: **97429-91057**
e-mail: **swamy_clri@hotmail.com**

'Star' artwork created
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